

COUNTRY OF ORIGIN INFORMATION REPORT

ETHIOPIA

APRIL 2006

Contents

	Paragraphs
1. SCOPE OF DOCUMENT	1.01
2. GEOGRAPHY	2.01
3. THE ECONOMY	3.01
Drought and Famine	3.04
4. HISTORY	4.01
Dergue Trials	4.04
Border conflict with Eritrea 1998 – 2006	4.07
National Elections May 2005	4.17
5. STATE STRUCTURES	5.01
The Constitution	5.01
Citizenship and Nationality	5.06
Political system	5.07
Political overview	5.07
The executive branch	5.08
The legislative branch	5.10
Ethiopian politics in general	5.11
Ethnicity in Ethiopian politics	5.15
Coalitions	5.16
The Ethiopian People's Revolutionary Democratic Front	5.17
The opposition	5.20
United Ethiopian Democratic Forces	5.28
Oromo National Congress	5.36
Southern Ethiopian People's Democratic Coalition	5.37
Coalition for Unity and Democracy	5.38
All-Ethiopian Unity Party	5.48
Ethiopian Democratic Party	5.51
United Ethiopian Democracy Party	5.52
The Rainbow Party of Berhanu Nega	5.54
Oromo Federalist Democratic Movement	5.55
Council of Alternative Forces for Peace and Democracy in Ethiopia	5.56
Hadiya National Democratic Organization	5.57
Rebel Groups/Illegal opposition parties	5.58
Ai-Ittihad Ai-Islam	5.58
Oromo Liberation Front	5.59
Ogaden National Liberation Front	5.69
Ethiopian People's Revolutionary Party	5.70
The judiciary	5.71
Overview	5.71
Former Members of the Dergue/Workers Party of Ethiopia	5.76
Legal rights and detention	5.80
Overview	5.80
Death penalty	5.87
Internal security	5.94
Prisons and prison conditions	5.96
The military	5.104
Military service	5.104
Child soldiers	5.107
Medical services	5.109
General situation	5.109
Health Service Coverage and Utilisation	5.112

Health Services Quality	5.115
Mental Health	5.126
HIV/AIDS	5.129
The disabled	5.137
Education	5.141
6. HUMAN RIGHTS.....	6.01
6.A HUMAN RIGHTS: ISSUES.....	6.01
General.....	6.01
Freedom of speech and the media	6.09
Overview of the Ethiopian media	6.09
Newspapers and journals	6.11
Television and radio.....	6.22
The Internet	6.25
Freedom of religion	6.28
Overview	6.28
Ethiopian Orthodox Church.....	6.36
Protestants	6.41
Islam	6.42
Jehovah's Witnesses	6.47
Ethiopian Jews	6.48
Freedom of assembly and association	6.52
Political activists.....	6.57
Employment rights	6.62
People trafficking.....	6.71
Freedom of movement	6.80
6.B HUMAN RIGHTS: SPECIFIC GROUPS.....	6.82
Ethnic groups	6.82
Ethnic divisions	6.83
Languages in Ethiopia.....	6.90
Oromos.....	6.93
Amharas	6.100
Sidama/Sidamo	6.104
Somalis.....	6.105
Berta ('Shankella', Beni, Shangu)	6.108
Afar	6.109
Gurage	6.111
Anuak	6.112
Adare/Gefu (Harar)	6.115
Beta Israel	6.116
Eritreans in Ethiopia.....	6.119
Deportations and repatriations	6.128
Repatriated Ethiopian refugees	6.132
Women	6.133
Female genital mutilation (FGM).....	6.146
Children.....	6.149
Childcare Provisions	6.160
Homosexuals	6.164
6.C HUMAN RIGHTS – OTHER ISSUES	6.168
Use of torture.....	6.168
NGOs in Ethiopia.....	6.178
Refugees in Ethiopia.....	6.185
Internally Displaced People (IDPs)	6.191

ANNEXES

- Annex A – Chronology of events
- Annex B – Map of Ethiopia
- Annex C – General Election results, May 2005
- Annex D – List of registered political parties
- Annex E – Political organisations
- Annex F – Prominent people
- Annex G – Abbreviations
- Annex H – List of Source Material

1. Scope of document

- 1.01 This Country of Origin Information Report (COI Report) has been produced by Country of Origin Information Service, Research Development and Statistics (RDS), Home Office, for use by officials involved in the asylum/human rights determination process. The Report provides general background information about the issues most commonly raised in asylum/human rights claims made in the United Kingdom. It includes information available up to 10 March 2006.
- 1.02 The Report is compiled wholly from material produced by a wide range of recognised external information sources and does not contain any Home Office opinion or policy. All information in the Report is attributed, throughout the text, to the original source material, which is made available to those working in the asylum / human rights determination process.
- 1.03 The Report aims to provide a brief summary of the source material identified, focusing on the main issues raised in asylum and human rights applications. It is not intended to be a detailed or comprehensive survey. For a more detailed account, the relevant source documents should be examined directly.
- 1.04 The structure and format of the COI Report reflects the way it is used by Home Office caseworkers and appeals presenting officers, who require quick electronic access to information on specific issues and use the contents page to go directly to the subject required. Key issues are usually covered in some depth within a dedicated section, but may also be referred to briefly in several other sections. Some repetition is therefore inherent in the structure of the Report.
- 1.05 The information included in this COI Report is limited to that which can be identified from source documents. While every effort is made to cover all relevant aspects of a particular topic, it is not always possible to obtain the information concerned. For this reason, it is important to note that information included in the Report should not be taken to imply anything beyond what is actually stated. For example, if it is stated that a particular law has been passed, this should not be taken to imply that it has been effectively implemented unless stated.
- 1.06 As noted above, the Report is a collation of material produced by a number of reliable information sources. In compiling the Report, no attempt has been made to resolve discrepancies between information provided in different source documents. For example, different source documents often contain different versions of names and spellings of individuals, places and political parties etc. COI Reports do not aim to bring consistency of spelling, but to reflect faithfully the spellings used in the original source documents. Similarly, figures given in different source documents sometimes vary and these are simply quoted as per the original text. The term 'sic' has been used in this document only to denote incorrect spellings or typographical errors in quoted text; its use is not intended to imply any comment on the content of the material.
- 1.07 The Report is based substantially upon source documents issued during the previous two years. However, some older source documents may have been included because they contain relevant information not available in more recent

documents. All sources contain information considered relevant at the time this Report was issued.

- 1.08 This COI Report and the accompanying source material are public documents. All COI Reports are published on the RDS section of the Home Office website and the great majority of the source material for the Report is readily available in the public domain. Where the source documents identified in the Report are available in electronic form, the relevant web link has been included, together with the date that the link was accessed. Copies of less accessible source documents, such as those provided by government offices or subscription services, are available from the Home Office upon request.
- 1.09 COI Reports are published every six months on the top 20 asylum producing countries and on those countries for which there is deemed to be a specific operational need. Inevitably, information contained in COI Reports is sometimes overtaken by events that occur between publication dates. Home Office officials are informed of any significant changes in country conditions by means of Country of Origin Information Bulletins, which are also published on the RDS website. They also have constant access to an information request service for specific enquiries.
- 1.10 In producing this COI Report, the Home Office has sought to provide an accurate, balanced summary of the available source material. Any comments regarding this Report or suggestions for additional source material are very welcome and should be submitted to the Home Office as below.

Country of Origin Information Service

Home Office

Apollo House

36 Wellesley Road

Croydon

CR0 9YA

United Kingdom

Email: cois@homeoffice.gsi.gov.uk

Website: http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/country_reports.html

ADVISORY PANEL ON COUNTRY INFORMATION

- 1.11 The independent Advisory Panel on Country Information was established under the Nationality, Immigration and Asylum Act 2002 to make recommendations to the Home Secretary about the content of the Home Office's country of origin information material. The Advisory Panel welcomes all feedback on the Home Office's COI Reports and other country of origin information material. Information about the Panel's work can be found on its website at www.apci.org.uk.
- 1.12 It is not the function of the Advisory Panel to endorse any Home Office material or procedures. In the course of its work, the Advisory Panel directly reviews the content of selected individual Home Office COI Reports, but neither the fact that such a review has been undertaken, nor any comments made, should be taken to imply endorsement of the material. Some of the material examined by the Panel relates to countries designated or proposed for designation for the Non-

Suspensive Appeals (NSA) list. In such cases, the Panel's work should not be taken to imply any endorsement of the decision or proposal to designate a particular country for NSA, nor of the NSA process itself.

Advisory Panel on Country Information

PO Box 1539
Croydon
CR9 3WR
United Kingdom

Email: apci@homeoffice.gsi.gov.uk

Website: www.apci.org.uk

2. Geography

- 2.01 The Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia is a land-locked country in the Horn of Africa, covering an area of 1,133,380 sq km (437,600sq miles). Ethiopia's western neighbour is Sudan; to the south it has a common border with Kenya; and to the east and south-east lie the Republic of Djibouti and the Somali Democratic Republic. To the north and north-east lies the State of Eritrea. (Africa South of the Sahara 2005) [1a] (p423) The estimated population was 73,053,286 in 2005 taking into account the effects of excess mortality due to AIDS. (CIA World Factbook) [2] (p2) The largest city is the federal capital Addis Ababa. Other principal towns are Dire Dawa, Nazret, Harar, Mekele, Jimma, Dessie, Bahir Dahr and Debrezit. (Africa South of the Sahara) [1a] (p436)
- 2.02 The nine autonomous national states established under the 1994 Constitution, broadly reflecting regional ethnic boundaries, are those of the Afar, Amhara, Benishangul/Gumuz, Gambela, Harari, Oromia, Somalia, Southern and Tigray (or Tigrai) peoples. [4] (p18) About 45% of the population are Muslims and about 40% belong to the Ethiopian Orthodox (Tewahido) Church. There are also significant Evangelical Protestant and Roman Catholic communities. The Pentecostal Church and the Society of International Missionaries carry out mission work in Ethiopia. There are also Hindu and Sikh religious institutions. Virtually all of Ethiopia's small Jewish population had been evacuated by the Israeli Government by mid-1999. It has been estimated that 5%-15% of the population follow animist rites and beliefs". (Africa South of the Sahara 2005 [1a] (p446)
- 2.03 There are two seasons in Ethiopia: in most of the country the dry season prevails from October until May with short rains in March; the wet season runs from June until the end of September. In the Omo and Mago parks, however, in southern Ethiopia, the seasons are different, with the main rains from March to June, and shorter rains in November. (Embassy of Ethiopia website) [5a]
- 2.04 Although Ethiopia lies within 15 degrees north of the equator, owing to the moderating influence of high altitude, the central highlands, where most Ethiopian people live, generally enjoy a temperate and pleasant climate. In the highlands above 2,000 metres the temperature rarely exceeds 25°C in most of the country. In the lowerlying areas (Awash, Omo and Mago parks), which experience sub-tropical and tropical climates, it can get considerably hotter. The temperature generally drops quite rapidly towards sunset. (Embassy of Ethiopia website) [5a]

**For further information on geography, refer to Europa Yearbook, source [1].
For map of Ethiopia please refer to [Annex B](#) or the Reliefweb website:
<http://www.reliefweb.int>**

[Return to contents](#)

[Go to list of Sources](#)

3. The Economy

3.01 “Ethiopia’s poverty-stricken economy is based on agriculture, which accounts for half of GDP, 60% of exports, and 80% of total employment. The agricultural sector suffers from frequent drought and poor cultivation practices. Coffee is critical to the Ethiopian economy with exports of some \$156 million in 2002, but historically low prices have seen many farmers switching to qat to supplement their income. The war with Eritrea in 1998-2000 and recurrent drought have buffeted the economy, in particular coffee production. In November 2001 Ethiopia qualified for debt relief from the Highly Indebted Poor Countries (HIPC) initiative. Under Ethiopia’s land tenure system, the government owns all land and provides long-term leases to the tenants; the system continues to hamper growth in the industrial sector as entrepreneurs are unable to use land as collateral for loans. Drought struck again late in 2002, leading to a 2% decline in GDP in 2003. Normal weather patterns late in 2003 helped agricultural and GDP growth recover in 2004.” (CIA World Factbook 2005) [2] (p6)

3.02 In February 2006 the exchange rate was US\$1 = 8.7289 birr.

3.03 Ethiopian public holidays for 2006 are:

7th January: ‘Gena’ Ethiopian Christmas; 10th January: Id Al Adha (Arafa); 19th January: ‘Timkat’ – Ethiopian Epiphany; 2nd March: Victory of Adowa Commemoration Day; 10th April: ‘Mawlid’ – Birth of the Prophet Mohammed; 21st April: Ethiopian Good Friday; 23rd April: ‘Fasika’ – Ethiopian Easter; 1st May: International Labour Day; 5th May: Ethiopian Patriots’ Victory Day; 28th May: Overthrow of the Dergue Regime; 11th September: ‘Enkutatash’ – Ethiopian New Year; 27th September: ‘Meskel’ – Finding of the True Cross; 24th October: ‘Id Al-Fater’ – (End of Ramadan). (Embassy of Ethiopia Website) [5b]

For further information about the Ethiopian calendar or holidays please refer to the Ethiopian Embassy in the UK: www.ethioembassy.org.uk

DROUGHT AND FAMINE

3.04 Ethiopia has a chronic food security problem. “Acute, perennial food shortages remain the most immediate and protracted economic problem confronting the majority of Ethiopians...most rural communities remain highly vulnerable, owing to acute poverty and the vagaries of weather and pests.” (Africa South of the Sahara 2005) [1a] (p435)

3.05 “According to the 2006 Humanitarian Appeal for Ethiopia released in January, and information from the Food Security Coordination Bureau (FSCB), about 11 million people need humanitarian assistance in 2006. About 400,000 metric tons (MT) of emergency food aid are needed to feed 2.6 million people affected by unfavorable weather conditions, the cumulative effects of drought, and livestock losses. As of February 2006, confirmed food aid donations and carry over stocks amounted to 238,000 MT, leaving a net requirement of about 100,000 MT for the year. Carry over stocks are sufficient to meet emergency food needs until May 2006. Government and partners have also requested donor assistance for recovery and rehabilitation in health and nutrition, water supply, agriculture, coordination and capacity strengthening with an estimated

cost of US\$ 111 million, including pastoral areas. Pledges for non-food sectors continued to be dismal meeting only 7 percent of the appeal requirements. The Productive Safety Net Program (PSNP), which aims to address needs of chronically food insecure households through cash and food transfers, has been scaled up in 2006 to 8.3 million people from 4.8 million last year.” (Fews Net – *Food Security Update*, 23 February 2006) [43a]

- 3.06 Resettlement: “In an effort to find a long-term solution to its food security problems, the Ethiopian government has launched a U.S. \$3.2 billion plan aimed at ending the country’s dependence on foreign aid. A key component is the planned resettlement of 2.2 million people from drought-prone areas to relatively fertile and underpopulated land. However, appalling logistical failures have left many of the 350,000 who have already moved without access to clean water, health care, shelter, education, or even food. Many resettled populations suffer from unacceptably high levels of morbidity, malnutrition, and child mortality. These problems may worsen as the pace of resettlement accelerates in the next 2–3 years. Many settlers have been induced to migrate to the new sites by false promises of schools, clinics, wells, food aid, and new houses.” (Human Rights Watch 2005) [11b] (p3)
- 3.07 “Several international aid groups blamed the Ethiopian government and foreign government donors for exacerbating conditions by relying on emergency relief rather than investing in infrastructure and promoting family planning programs.” [11c] (p4)

More information and maps of the suspected famine/malnutrition zones are available on the UN Reliefweb website: <http://www.reliefweb.int> [44]

Return to contents

Go to list of Sources

4. History

- 4.01 “Ethiopia is the oldest independent country in Africa. It resisted colonisation by Italy and achieved international recognition in 1896 as a traditional monarchy, led by Emperor Menelik. For much of the 20th century Ethiopia was ruled by Haile Selassie. He became Regent in the 1920s and was crowned as Emperor in 1930. In 1936 Italy attacked Ethiopia from its colonies in neighbouring Somalia and Eritrea and went on to occupy the country until 1941. Haile Selassie spent his exile at Bath, in the UK and was restored to power with British military assistance. His long rule ended with the Ethiopian Revolution of 1974.” (FCO) [6a]
- 4.02 “Colonel Mengistu Haile Mariam emerged as the leader of the Provisional Military Administrative Council (known as the Derg) in 1977. He established a brutal Marxist dictatorship that evolved into an authoritarian communist system dominated by the Worker's Party of Ethiopia. Ethiopia was wracked by civil war for most of the Derg period, including a secessionist war in the northern province of Eritrea and regional rebellions in Tigray and Oromia. The population experienced massive human rights abuse and intense economic hardship, including acute famine.” (FCO) [6a]
- 4.03 “The Derg was overthrown in May 1991 when rebels of the Ethiopian People's Revolutionary Democratic Front (EPRDF) captured Addis Ababa. Meles Zenawi took the leadership. After elections for a Transitional Government in 1992, he presided over the establishment of Ethiopia's current political structures. In a decisive break with Ethiopia's tradition of centralised rule, the new institutions are based on the principle of ethnic federalism, designed to provide self-determination and autonomy to Ethiopia's different ethnic groups.” (FCO) [6a]

Refer to Africa South of the Sahara (source [1a]) for a more detailed history of events prior to 1995, or the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) Country Profile on Ethiopia: www.fco.gov.uk

DERGUE TRIALS

- 4.04 Over 2,000 members of the former Dergue government have been detained since 1991 on charges including crimes against humanity, war crimes and genocide. The trials are not yet completed. Several death sentences have been imposed but no executions reported.” (Amnesty International 2005) [10a] (p1) In December 2005 a former governor, Melaku Tefera, was sentenced to death for his role in killing more than 900 people during Ethiopia's "Red Terror" of the late 1970s. (CNN) [50a]. The trials are due to conclude in May 2006.
- 4.05 The Europa World Yearbook 2003, Report on Ethiopia, stated that:
- “During late 1995 and early 1996 the Meles administration was criticized for its harsh treatment of opposition activists. In June 1996 Dr Taye Wolde Semayat, the Secretary-General of the Ethiopian Teachers' Association, was arrested with several associates and accused of leading a clandestine political organization (the Ethiopian National Patriotic Front – ENPF), which had allegedly been responsible for several terrorist acts”. [1c] (p1567) The Africa

South of the Sahara 2005 noted that Dr Taye was “given a widely criticized 15-year prison sentence in July 1999; on appeal this was reduced to five years, and he was released in May 2002.” [1a] (p428)

- 4.06 The Europa World Yearbook 2003, Report on Ethiopia, further stated that:

“The Somali-based al-Ittihad al-Islam (Islamic Union Party – which sought independence for Ethiopia’s Ogaden province) claimed responsibility for bomb explosions at hotels in Addis Ababa and Dire Dawa in early 1996, and for the attempted assassination in July of Dr Abdul-Mejid Hussen, the Minister of Transport and Communications. Government forces launched reprisal attacks on al-Ittihad bases in Somalia on numerous occasions during 1996-98, resulting in the deaths of several hundred al-Ittihad members.” [1c] (p1567)

Refer to section on [Death Penalty](#) for recent Dergue trial sentences.

BORDER CONFLICT WITH ERITREA 1998-2006

- 4.07 In late 1997 relations with Eritrea deteriorated, following that country’s adoption of a new currency (to replace the Ethiopian birr) and the subsequent disruption of cross-border trade. Fighting between Ethiopian and Eritrean troops erupted in early May 1998, with both countries accusing the other of having invaded their territory.” Mediation failed and between 1998 and 2000 the two countries fought a bitter war with casualties estimated at 70–100,000. Eventually the Eritrean government announced that would withdraw its troops from all disputed areas and a cessation of hostilities agreement was signed in Algiers on 18 June [2000]. On 12 December 2000 Ethiopia and Eritrea signed an agreement in Algiers which formally brought an end to the conflict. The terms were largely favourable to Ethiopia and included a return to the pre-May 1998 border positions, a 25-km wide demilitarized security zone inside the Eritrean frontier, the deployment of a UN peace-keeping force and the future demarcation of the border (Europa 2003 and Africa South of the Sahara 2005). [1c] (p1569), [1a] (p431) The Algiers agreement also established a Boundary Commission to rule on the delineation and carry out the demarcation of the disputed boundary.
- 4.08 Expulsions: During the war Ethiopia expelled 70,000 Eritreans living in the country, a move strongly criticized by Amnesty International and other human rights organizations. Eritrea subsequently encouraged a similar number of Ethiopians to leave Eritrea. (Africa South of the Sahara 2005). [1a] (p431)
- 4.09 POWs: “In late August 2002, Eritrea repatriated 279 Ethiopian prisoners of war (POWs), stating that it had thereby returned all POWs, but the Ethiopian government accused Eritrea of still holding prisoners in undisclosed locations.” (HRW 2003) [11d] (p4) The BBC reported on 29 November 2002 that: “more than 1,200 Eritrean prisoners of war held by Ethiopia for more than two years had returned to their home territory....The International Committee of the Red Cross has said it wants to work with the Ethiopian and Eritrean governments on the cases of some individual PoWs still being held by either country. However, it said all registered prisoners from the conflict – which ended two years ago – had now been repatriated. The last group of registered Ethiopian prisoners was sent home three months ago.” [7a]

- 4.10 An Amnesty International Report issued in January 1999 stated that:
- “Ethiopia’s policy of deporting people of Eritrean origin after war between the two countries broke out in May 1998 has now developed into a systematic, country-wide operation to arrest and deport anyone of full or part Eritrean descent.” The report further noted that: “At least 22,000 Ethiopians have returned to Ethiopia from Eritrea since May, most after losing their jobs and being rendered destitute as a result of the hostilities, and some in fear of reprisals. No evidence was found to support Ethiopia’s allegations that 40,000 of its citizens have been seriously ill-treated and forcibly deported from Eritrea since May 1998.” [10d]
- 4.11 In September 2000 the UN Security Council approved the deployment of a 4,200-strong UN Mission in Ethiopia and Eritrea (UNMEE), to police the Temporary Security Zone (TSZ); The Boundary Commission announced its decision on the border on 13 April 2002. Demarcation was due to follow in 2003. However, when it became clear that the town of Badme (where the hostilities started) had been awarded to Eritrea, Ethiopia challenged the BC’s conclusions. In November 2004 Ethiopia announced its acceptance “in principle” of the Boundary Commission ruling but progress on demarcation remains stalled. (From the FCO Country Profile for Ethiopia) [6a] (p3)
- 4.12 Despite an announcement by Prime Minister Meles Zenawi that his country would accept ‘in principle’ a border ruling by an independent commission on Ethiopia’s border with Eritrea, the year 2004 ended without a resolution of the dispute. Meles made the announcement in November. However he insisted that the April 2002 ruling on the 1,000-km frontier with Eritrea, which sparked a bloody two-year war in 1998, was still ‘illegal and unjust’. His announcement was welcomed by the Africa Union and the European Union. However the reaction from Eritrea called for “full and unconditional respect for the Algiers agreement”. A statement issued by the Foreign Ministry in Asmara accused Ethiopia of ‘intransigence’, adding that Eritrea would not ‘accommodate Ethiopia’s forcible occupation of our territory’. (IRIN 5 January 2005) [9a]
- 4.13 Tensions continued with large numbers of troops massed on the disputed boarder in early 2005. An UNMEE spokesperson, urged both countries to remain calm and show restraint. (IRIN 15 March 2005) [9b]
- 4.14 Tensions mounted again at the end of October 2005 when Eritrea banned all UNMEE helicopter flights and vehicle movements on its side of the border. (IRIN 2 February 2006) [9c]. In December Eritrea ordered out Western UN troops serving in the UNMEE mission. However, most of UNMEE are from Asian and African countries and these remained. (BBC 16 Dec 2005) [7b]
- 4.15 In February 2006 the Witnesses to the Algiers Agreement met to discuss the impasse between Ethiopia and Eritrea. At their request, the Ethiopia Eritrea Boundary Commission convened a meeting in London on 10–11 March, attended by legal representatives of the two countries, to prepare to resume demarcation of the boundary. A further meeting was planned for in April. [44b], [9ag]

[Return to contents](#)

[Go to list of Sources](#)

- 4.16 The US State Department's Human Rights Report 2005 noted that:

"At year's end [2005] there were approximately two million landmines in the country, many dating from the 1998–2000 war with Eritrea. United Nations Mission in Eritrea and Ethiopia (UNMEE) officials reported that new landmines were planted on both sides of the Ethiopian-Eritrean border during the year. The government and UNMEE engaged in demining activities in selected areas along the border and disseminated information on the whereabouts of suspected mined areas to local residents." [3a] (p3)

Further information on the border conflict between Ethiopia and Eritrea can be found on the UNMEE website: www.unmeeeonline.org

NATIONAL ELECTIONS MAY 2005

- 4.17 In accordance with the 1995 Constitutions, elections are held every five years. Elections to the Federal Parliamentary Assembly (the House of People's Representatives) and to the Regional State Councils, which elect representatives to the upper house (the House of the Federation) were held in May 1995, May 2000 and most recently in May 2005. The EPRDF and its allies won overwhelming majorities in the 1995 and 2000 elections, taking over 95% of the seats in both the federal and regional assemblies. On the conduct of these elections, Africa South of the Sahara 2005 commented that the results were seriously undermined by the decision of most opposition parties to boycott, claiming insufficient access to media, extensive arrest and harassment of their officials and closure of party offices. International observers generally agreed with the criticisms; there was a consensus that whilst the elections represented an advance on past experience, they were not entirely free or fair. (Africa South of the Sahara) [1a] (p428)
- 4.18 Ethiopia's third general election was held on 15 May 2005. Ethiopians voted for members of the House of Peoples' Representatives (the federal or national parliament), with 547 seats. They also voted for representatives to the nine Regional State Councils and two City Councils. [14]
- 4.19 Some 25 million registered voters (aged 18 and over) voted in about 30,000 polling stations. Some 36 political parties competed for the federal parliament or regional and city councils, with 1,845 candidates (including 273 women), for the federal parliament, and 3,662 candidates for the regional and city councils.. Many of the registered political parties were affiliated to the ruling Ethiopian People's Revolutionary Democratic Front (EPRDF) coalition. There were also two major opposition coalitions comprising both national and regional opposition parties – the United Ethiopian Democratic Forces (UEDF) and the Coalition for Unity and Democracy (CUD). (Amnesty International) [10e], (National Election Board of Ethiopia) [14]
- 4.20 Some problems over registration were reported in the run-up to election, including under-age voters and people with multiple ballots. (2 May 2005 IRIN News) [9d]
- 4.21 Opposition leaders accused the ruling party of killing and intimidating their supporters, claiming that two opposition supporters had been shot, hundreds rounded up and imprisoned and dozens had disappeared in the run up to

- election. Information Minister Bereket Simon rejected the allegations as 'propaganda' and absolutely false. (BBC and IRIN 27/8 April 2005) [7c], [9e]
- 4.22 Ethiopia's Prime Minister Meles Zenawi accused opposition parties of fomenting ethnic hatred ahead of general elections on 15 May. AFP reported that in a national television address, he compared opposition tactics to those used in the Rwandan genocide. 'The Ethiopian opposition is following the same trend to create havoc and hatred', Mr Meles said,. Last week the prime minister's party denied accusations that it was killing and intimidating opposition supporters. (BBC 6 May 2005) [7d]
- 4.23 IRIN News reported on 16 May 2005 that: "Millions of Ethiopians went to the polls on Sunday in elections that were widely expected to hand Prime Minister Meles Zenawi a third five-year term. At dawn, huge queues of voters snaked around polling stations for the country's third-ever elections in what is seen as a key test of Meles's plan to introduce greater democracy in this country of 70 million." [9f] The EU Election Observer Mission judged that voting was conducted peacefully and was generally well administered. Turnout was high and procedures were generally well followed in 80 per cent of polling stations visited by EU observers. (EUEOM final Report 14 March 2006) [12]
- 4.24 Immediately after the elections the Prime Minister, Meles Zenawi, announced a ban on demonstrations for a month. The EU election observer report noted various shortcomings and delays in the counting and publication of official results. This contributed to conflicting claims and disputed results. (IRIN News 19 May 2005) [9g], (EUEOM final Report 14 March 2006) [12]
- 4.25 For example, IRIN reported on 19 May 2005 that "Ethiopia's main opposition parties claimed they were headed for victory in the country's national elections – two days after the government announced it had won. The Coalition for Unity and Democracy (CUD) and the United Ethiopian Democratic Forces (UEDF) said they had won 203 seats in the 547-member parliament after results from 260 constituencies had been counted....The opposition gains appeared to centre primarily on urban areas. The CUD believed it had won at least 21 of the 23 seats in the capital, Addis Ababa, and claimed to have unseated a number of ministers." [9g]
- 4.26 Further to that report IRIN then noted on 24 May 2005 that: "Ethiopia's main opposition party on Monday threatened to boycott the next parliament unless its complaints of alleged vote rigging in last week's general elections were resolved. Hailu Shawel, leader of the Coalition for Unity and Democracy (CUD), said his party would not join any government if it believed that the elections were unfair." [9h]
- 4.27 After provisional results indicated that the EPRDF had won a majority of the seats violence erupted in the capital, Addis Ababa. The BBC, in an article dated 6 June 2005, reported that: Hundreds of Ethiopian students had been arrested in the capital, Addis Ababa, after staging protests over last month's elections. Baton-wielding police stormed the two university campuses which the students had occupied. They had accused the ruling EPRDF party of fraud." [7y]

[Return to contents](#)

[Go to list of Sources](#)

4.28 Amnesty International reported on 7 June 2005 that:

“On 6 June, several hundred peaceful student demonstrators were beaten with batons and rifle butts by the police on the two main Addis Ababa University (AAU) campuses. The students had been shouting and chanting protests against the announcement of the provisional results of the 15 May parliamentary elections, which indicated a majority for Prime Minister Meles Zenawi’s ruling Ethiopian People’s Revolutionary Democratic Front (EPRDF) coalition. Amnesty International considers them to be prisoners of conscience, who were peacefully exercising their opinions. The students were supporting opposition demands for an investigation into alleged voting irregularities, including reported arrests and beatings of opposition candidates, in about 300 of the 547 constituencies. The students defied the Prime Minister’s ban on demonstrations for a month after the elections. The detained students are reportedly being held in police camps such as Sendafa police training college, 40 kms north of Addis Ababa.” [10f]

4.29 After three days of mass arrests and shootings of demonstrators in Addis Ababa, leaving at least 26 dead and over 100 injured, Amnesty International issued an appeal on behalf of over 1,500 students and other demonstrators who were at risk of torture....Amnesty International feared that several hundred Addis Ababa University students, who were arrested during demonstrations earlier this week, are being held incommunicado without charge, and are being beaten, forced to do harsh exercises, and denied adequate food and medical treatment.” (Amnesty International 9 June 2005) [10g]

4.30 Wider demonstrations occurred in Addis Ababa on 8 June, following the student arrests. Security forces killed at least 36 people and arrested thousands of others, mostly linked to the opposition. (EUEOM Report) [12]

4.31 The BBC reported on 11 June 2005 that:

“Ethiopia’s Prime Minister Meles Zenawi has defended a security crackdown which saw 26 protestors shot dead in the country’s capital, Addis Ababa. Speaking to the Reuters news agency, Mr Meles said he regretted the loss of life but added ‘things were beginning to get out of control’. ‘It was prudent to stop this with forceful action’, he said. Mr Meles spoke as rival parties signed a deal backing a call for a probe into claims of fraud in recent elections....Mr Meles said he remained ready to take ‘preventative action’ to preserve calm. [7e]

4.32 The BBC further reported in an article dated 13 June 2005:

“More than 3,000 people have been arrested in Ethiopia, since disputed elections last month, human rights workers say. The arrests have intensified since protests were violently suppressed last week, said an official with the Ethiopian Human Rights Council (EHRCO). The European Union has called together political leaders to defuse tensions. All parties signed an agreement on Friday to undertake a joint probe into complaints of voting irregularities. But the opposition alleged the government could not be trusted – though it later withdrew the comments.... Meanwhile, shops and cafes have reopened in the capital, Addis Ababa, after being closed following last week’s violence.” [7f]

- 4.33 The BBC reported in an article dated 14 June 2005: "Ethiopian political leaders have signed a declaration renewing a deal to try to end violence and launch an investigation into election complaints." [7g] The National Election Board selected 135 constituencies for investigation. The 26 investigation teams were formed including representatives from political parties, representatives from the National Electoral Board, and international observers. (EUEOM Report). [12]
- 4.34 A BBC report dated 24 June 2005, noted: "Authorities in Ethiopia say they have released nearly 2,700 people who were detained after election protests turned violent earlier this month. Federal police said those freed were found to be 'minor offenders' who did not deserve prosecution. They had been held at a military camp south of the capital, Addis Ababa. But hundreds more were still being detained, police said." [7h]
- 4.35 An Amnesty International report dated 28 July 2005, stated that:
- "All 190 Addis Ababa University students detained illegally at Sendafa Police Training College since 6 June have now been released. As with other detainees arrested for demonstrating against the government, the students were taken to court and released on bail, although not formally charged with any criminal offence....virtually all other detainees arrested in Addis Ababa and other places during the demonstrations in early June, had been taken to court and released on bail. Up to 200 people, mostly unemployed youths, arrested in Addis Ababa and still detained in Ziwai prison have not been able to raise bail and remain in detention." [10h]
- 4.36 The election complaints process resulted in the partial or complete re-run of elections in 31 constituencies on 21 August, 2005. The final results, as announced by the National Election Board, gave the EPRDF parties 327 seats, parties associated with the EPRDF 40 seats and the opposition 172 seats. Of the opposition seats, the CUD gained 109, the UEDF 52 and the Oromo Federalist Democratic Movement 11. (NEBE) [14]. The opposition continued to dispute the results and planned demonstrations.
- 4.37 According to an Amnesty International report dated 30 September 2005 the Ethiopian authorities began arresting opposition members in mid-September. The report noted that:
- "Hundreds of opposition party officials and members were being held incommunicado without charge in order to stop them attending nationwide demonstrations planned for 2 October....There has also been widespread intimidation and harassment of suspected opposition supporters, particularly youths. Amnesty International believed that those arrested may be prisoners of conscience, detained solely on account of their non-violent opinions. The authorities began arresting members of the two opposition coalitions, the Coalition for Unity and Democracy (CUD) and the United Ethiopian Democratic Front (UEDF), in mid-September, following the announcement of the demonstrations planned for 2 October. The CUD said up to 12 of its regional party offices had been shut down and officials detained. The Oromo National Congress (ONC), part of the UEDF coalition, made similar charges. In total, the CUD and the UEDF claim that over 850 people have been detained, mainly in the central Amhara and Oromia regions, and in the south. The government has accused the opposition parties of 'a violent conspiracy aimed at subverting the constitutional order', and refused permission for the demonstrations, claiming

that the opposition parties were planning violence leading up to the demonstrations planned for 2 October in the capital, Addis Ababa, and other towns.” [10i]

- 4.38 Violence erupted again in the first week of November. According to an Amnesty International report of 11 November 2005: “At least 46 protesters were killed in Addis Ababa and other towns, and at least 4,000 were arrested.” [10j] “Detained opposition leaders and editors seized after bloody clashes in Addis Ababa last week will face treason charges, Ethiopian Prime Minister Meles Zenawi said. The Prime Minister declared that the worst of the violence was over, but his government had no intention of bowing to calls from the international community for the release of opposition leaders....’They are accused of engaging in insurrection’. He said. ‘That is an act of treason under Ethiopian law. They will be charged and will have their day in court’.” (IRIN 10 November 2005) [9i]
- 4.39 According to an Africa Confidential article dated 18 November 2005:
- “The ruling party is on the defensive. Its brutal response to opposition protests at election irregularities and the criticism which that has aroused, may mark its transformation. At May’s [2005] elections, the ruling Ethiopian People’s Revolutionary Democratic Front (EPRDF) lost support markedly throughout the country and totally in the capital. Since then, some 76 civilians have died in disturbances, the last 40 of them on 1–2 November. The death-toll makes it seem that Prime Minister Meles Zenawi’s government cannot regain its lost legitimacy, either with Ethiopians or with Western governments.” [15a]
- 4.40 Human Rights Watch reported on 13 January 2006 that:
- “The Ethiopian government is using intimidation, arbitrary detentions and excessive force in rural areas of Ethiopia to suppress post-election protests and all potential dissent, Human Rights Watch said today after a research trip to Addis Ababa and the Oromia and Amhara regions....federal police in the Oromia and Amhara regions have threatened, beaten and detained opposition supporters, students and people with no political affiliation, often in nighttime raids. Alongside local government officials and members of local government-backed militias, the federal police have taken the lead in intimidating and coercing opposition supporters.” [11f]
- 4.41 The US State Department’s Human Rights Report 2005 noted that:
- “In the period leading up to the May national elections, campaigning was open and debates were televised. The Carter Center described this period as credible and commendable. However, in the period following the elections, authorities arbitrarily detained, beat, and killed opposition members, ethnic minorities, NGO workers, and members of the press. Authorities also imposed additional restrictions on civil liberties, including freedom of the press and freedom of assembly.” [3a] (p1)
- 4.42 In January Ethiopian authorities freed more than 11,200 people seized following the political unrest in November. IRIN reported on 16 January 2006 that:
- “Over 2,000 prisoners were released without charge after prosecutors said they had played a minimal role in the violence. ‘After presenting reports on it’s

investigation to the prosecutor and as per the directive given by the latter, police released 2,252 prisoners whose participation in the violence was minimal and who could follow their cases outside prison,' a police statement said. A further 734 prisoners detained after fighting erupted in the capital were freed on 6 January, according to an earlier report by the state-run Ethiopian News Agency. The exact number of those still held by Ethiopian authorities remained unclear." [9]

[Return to contents](#)

[Go to list of Sources](#)

5. State structures

THE CONSTITUTION

- 5.01 The Africa South of the Sahara 2005 Report stated that: "In December [1994], the Constituent Assembly ratified the draft Constitution." [1a] (p427) The CIA World Factbook, last updated on 1 November 2005, noted that the Constitution became effective as of 22 August 1995. [2] (p4)
- 5.02 The Constitution establishes a federal and democratic state structure and all sovereign power resides in the nations, nationalities and peoples of Ethiopia. The Constitution is the supreme law of the land. Human rights and freedoms, emanating from the nature of mankind, are inviolable and inalienable. State and religion are separate and there shall be no state religion. The state shall not interfere in religious matter and vice-versa. All Ethiopian languages shall enjoy equal state recognition; Amharic shall be the working language of the Federal Government. [4] (pp3-5)
- 5.03 The Africa South of the Sahara 2005 Ethiopia Report stated that:
- "Every Ethiopian national, without discrimination based on colour, race, nation, nationality, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, or other status, has the following rights: on the attainment of 18 years of age, to vote in accordance with the law; to be elected to any office at any level of government; to freely express oneself without interference; to hold opinions without interference; to engage in economic activity and to pursue a livelihood anywhere within the national territory; to choose his or her means of livelihood, occupation and profession; and to own private property." [1a] (p442)
- 5.04 The Report further noted that:
- "Every nation, nationality and people in Ethiopia has the following rights: an unconditional right to self-determination, including the right to secession; the right to speak, to write and to develop its own language; the right to express, to develop and to promote its culture, and to preserve its history; the right to a full measure of self-government which includes the right to establish institutions of government in the territory that it inhabits. Women shall, in the enjoyment of rights and protections provided for by this Constitution, have equal right with men." [1a] (p442)
- 5.05 The 1994 Constitution requires the Government to establish a Human Rights Commission and Office of the Ombudsman. [4] (p24) The Africa South of the Sahara 2005 Report on Ethiopia stated that: "Legislation approving both bodies was finally passed in 2000, but no appointments had been made by mid-2004." [1a] (p429) The US Department of State's Human Rights Report 2004 confirmed that: "In August [2004] the Government named Kassa Gebre Haiwot as Human Rights Commissioner and Abay Tekele as Ombudsman. Neither entity was fully operational by year's end [2004]." [3b] (p15)

For a full text of the Constitution please refer to the Ethiopian Embassy in the UK: www.ethioembassy.org.uk

CITIZENSHIP AND NATIONALITY

- 5.06 According to Article 6 of the Constitution any person shall be an Ethiopian national where both or either parent is Ethiopian and foreign nationals may acquire Ethiopian nationality, although there is no provision for dual nationality. It also affirms that the law shall determine particulars relating to nationality. [4] (p4)

POLITICAL SYSTEM

POLITICAL OVERVIEW

- 5.07 The CIA World Factbook, last updated on 1 November 2005, noted that Ethiopia is a federal republic with nine ethnically based states and two self-governing administrations. Nationally the Government is split into executive and legislative branches. [2] (pp4-5) **Details of each regional state can be found on the Ethiopian Embassy official website – About Ethiopia – Regional States.** <http://www.ethioembassy.org.uk>

THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH

- 5.08 The CIA World Factbook, last updated on 1 November 2005, noted that:
- “The Chief of State is President Girma Woldegiorgis since 8 October 2001. The Head of the Government is Prime Minister Meles Zenawi who took office in August 1995. The President is elected by the House of the People’s Representatives for a six-year term, the Prime Minister is designated by the party in power following the legislative elections. The Ethiopian Cabinet is known as the Council of Ministers as provided for by the 1994 Constitution; Ministers are selected by the Prime Minister and then have to be approved by the House of People’s Representatives.” [2] (p4)
- 5.08 The BBC Country Profile on Ethiopia, updated on 2 November 2005, noted that:
- “Prime Minister Meles Zenawi took part in the fight against the Mengistu regime, and was chosen as transitional head of state after the overthrow of the dictator in 1991. Once a Marxist-Leninist, by the 1990s he had become a champion of the free market and parliamentary democracy. He was one of the architects of the 1994 constitution, which provided for a federal republic with ethnically-based regions. In 1995 he became Prime Minister.” [7i]

THE LEGISLATIVE BRANCH

- 5.10 The CIA World Factbook, last updated on 1 November 2005, noted that Ethiopia has a:
- “bicameral Parliament which consists of the House of Federation (Upper Chamber) which consists of 108 seats, and the House of People’s Representatives (Lower Chamber) which consists of 548 seats. Members of the House of Federation are chosen by state assemblies to serve five-year terms. Members of the House of the People’s Representatives are elected by popular vote from single-member districts to serve five-year terms.” [2] (p5)

ETHIOPIAN POLITICS IN GENERAL

- 5.11 The Constitution provides for the right of peaceful assembly and free speech. [4] (pp10-11) The US State Department's Human Rights Report 2005 noted that: "Organizers of large public meetings or demonstrations must notify the government 72 hours in advance and obtain a permit. There were several reports during the year that authorities denied permits sought by opposition political parties. Opposition parties also reported long, unexplained delays by the regional authorities in issuing permits, and last minute revocation of permits. The independent Ethiopian Teacher's Association (ETA) continued to encounter government restrictions when attempting to hold meetings or demonstrations." [3a] (p10)
- 5.12 The Constitution provides for freedom of association and the right to engage in unrestricted peaceful political activity. [4] (pp11-14)
- 5.13 The US State Department's Human Rights Report 2004 noted that:
- "The Government required political parties to register with the National Election Board (NEB). Parties that did not participate in two consecutive national elections were subject to deregistration. There were approximately 69 organized political parties; 13 were national parties, and the remainder operated only in limited areas. There were no reports during the year [2004] that any political party had its registration revoked." [3b] (p11)
- 5.14 The US State Department's Human Rights Report 2005 noted that:
- "Registered political parties must receive permission from regional governments to open local offices. Opposition parties, such as the CUD, the UEDF, and the OFDM, claimed that the pattern of widespread intimidation and violence directed against members of opposition political parties by local government officials continued throughout the year. Opposition parties and the press reported hundreds of such cases, including killings, beatings, arrests, house burnings, and property confiscation." [3a] (p14)

ETHNICITY IN ETHIOPIAN POLITICS

(See also Human Rights – [Ethnic Groups](#), and [Annex E – Major Political organisations](#)).

- 5.15 The US State Department's Human Rights Report 2005 noted that:
- "There were more than 80 ethnic groups living in the country, of which the Oromo was the largest, at 40 percent of the population. Although many groups influenced the political and cultural life of the country, Amharas and Tigrayans from the northern highlands played a dominant role. The federal system drew boundaries roughly along major ethnic group lines, and regional states had much greater control over their affairs than previously. Most political parties remained primarily ethnically based." [3a] (p19)

[Return to contents](#)

[Go to list of Sources](#)

COALITIONS

5.16

Political Party Coalitions	
Coalition	Ethiopian People's Revolutionary Democratic Front (EPRDF)
Members	Tigray People's Liberation Front (TPLF)
	Oromo People's Democratic Organization (OPDO)
	Amhara National Democratic Movement (ANDM)
	Southern Ethiopian People's Democratic Movement (SEPDM)
Coalition	United Ethiopian Democratic Forces (UEDF)
Members	Oromo National Congress (ONC)
	Ethiopian Social Democratic Federal Party (ESDFP)
	Southern Ethiopia People's Democratic Coalition (SEPDC)
	All Amhara People's Organization (AAPO)
	Ethiopian Democratic Unity Party (EDUP)
Coalition	Coalition for Unity and Democracy (CUD)
Members	Ethiopian Democratic League (EDL)
	All Ethiopian Unity Party (AEUP)
	United Ethiopian Democratic Party + Medhin Party (UEDP-MEDHIN)
	Rainbow Ethiopia: Movement for Democracy and Social Justice (REMDSJ)

[14]

THE ETHIOPIAN PEOPLES' REVOLUTIONARY DEMOCRATIC FRONT

- 5.17 Prime Minister Meles Zenawi is Chairman of EPRDF, which was formed in 1989 and is an alliance of insurgent groups. The coalition is made up of the Tigrays People's Liberation Front (TPLF), Oromo People's Democratic Organization (OPDO), Amharara National Democratic Movement (ANDM) and Southern Ethiopian People's Democratic Movement. [1a] (p444), [14]
- 5.18 The US Department of State in its 2006 online background note of Ethiopia stated:

"In July 1991, the EPRDF, the Oromo Liberation Front (OLF), and others established the Transitional Government of Ethiopia (TGE) which was comprised of an 87-member Council of Representatives and guided by a national charter that functioned as a transitional constitution. In June 1992 the

OLF withdrew from the government; in March 1993, members of the Southern Ethiopia Peoples' Democratic Coalition left the government." [3e] (p3)

- 5.19 The official results of the 15 May election were announced by the National election Board of Ethiopia in September. The EPRDF won 327 seats. Parties allied to it won a further 40 seats. The opposition won a total of 172 seats. Of these, the CUD won 109, UEDF won 52 and the Oromo Federalist Democratic Movement won 11. (NEBE website) [14]

THE OPPOSITION

- 5.20 The opposition is made up of the two broad groupings – the United Ethiopian Democratic Forces (UEDF) and the Coalition for Unity and Democracy (CUD). The UEDF has taken up its seats in parliament. Some of the CUD have done so but others declined to do so. (BBC 28 November 2005) [7J]

- 5.21 The US State Department's Human Rights Report 2005 noted that:

As provided by law, the government required political parties to register with the NEB. The NEB's independence was called into question when it made a series of decisions limiting the political activity of opposition parties, including the rejection of the CUD merger, unwillingness to recognize the CUD coalition after the elections, and the recognition of a disputed change in the ONC party leadership. [3a] (pp11-12)

- 5.22 The US State Department's Human Rights Report 2005 also noted that:

"There were many reports from opposition party members that in small towns authorities detained persons in police stations for long periods without access to a judge, and that sometimes these persons' whereabouts were unknown for several months. Opposition parties registered many complaints during the year that government militias beat and detained their supporters without charge for participating in opposition political rallies." [3a] (p5)

- 5.23 The Report further noted that: "Opposition groups alleged that some of the persons detained by the SPO [Special Prosecutors Office] were held for political reasons, an allegation that the government denied." [3a] (p5)

- 5.24 The Report continued:

"Following the June 6 to 9 demonstrations protesting the announced outcome of the May 15 parliamentary elections, police detained thousands of opposition members and other residents of Addis Ababa. Government security forces took three to four thousand residents from their homes and detained them in Zway prison outside the capital. EHRCO [Ethiopian Human Rights Council] reported the illegal detention between June 10 and 16 of 74 opposition political party activists, businessmen, and students. Security forces beat and detained an estimated five thousand individuals in various prisons around the country. On June 29, the federal police reported that it had detained 4,455 'suspects;' most were released after several days of detention. In mid-September, however, 40 percent of the prisoners at Shoa Robit prison (742 of 1,866 prisoners), north of Addis Ababa, were young men arrested around the time of the June demonstrations on charges of dangerous vagrancy." [3a] (pp5-6)

- 5.25 The Report also noted: "Opposition party representatives claimed that police sometimes used fraudulent warrants to enter homes and commit criminal acts, including extorting money. There were reports that members of the federal police robbed persons during the year, including through the use of false warrants.... Some opposition party members reported that authorities burned down their homes and looted their offices." [3a] (pp6-7)
- 5.26 Amnesty International reported on 11 November 2005 that: "On 7 November 2005 police brought to court 24 opposition leaders and others who were arrested in Addis Ababa on 1 November following street demonstrations which erupted into four days of violence when police started shooting. At least 46 protesters were killed in Addis Ababa and other towns, and at least 4,000 were arrested." [10j]
- 5.27 IRIN News reported on 20 February 2006 that:
- "Ethiopian Prime Minister Meles Zenawi will allow international observers to attend the trial of detained opposition leaders set to begin in Addis Ababa on Thursday, a senior European Commission official said....The jailed opposition leaders were arrested in a crackdown following the disputed 15 May [2005] elections that returned the prime minister's party to power. Some 131 opposition leaders, journalists and aid workers are currently being detained. They face charges of treason, planning to commit genocide and other crimes, some of which carry the maximum sentence of the death penalty." [9k]

UNITED ETHIOPIAN DEMOCRATIC FORCES (UEDF)

- 5.28 Formed in 2003, the UEDF is a coalition consisting of the Oromo National Congress (ONC), Ethiopian Social Democratic Federal Party (ESDFP), Southern Ethiopia People's Democratic Coalition (SEPDC) and Ethiopian Democratic Unity Party (EDUP). [1a] (p444), [According to some sources, AAPO is also a member]
- 5.29 Chaired by Dr Beyene Petros, and subsequently by Dr Merera Gudina, by June 2004 UEDF encompassed 15 opposition organizations, including the CAFPDE, the SEPDC, the All Ethiopia Unity Party (previously the All Amhara People's Organization – AAPO) the Oromo National Congress, and the Pan-Ethiopian Democratic Unity Party (EDUP). Following a joint conference of all opposition parties in late 2003 in the USA it also encompassed a number of external groupings, including MEISON and the EPRP." [1a] (p428)
- 5.30 IRIN reported on 12 August 2003 that:
- "Fifteen Ethiopian opposition parties had formed a 'rainbow coalition'. Veteran politician Dr Beyene Petros told IRIN the United Ethiopian Democratic Forces (UEDF) was the largest coalition opposition force within the country. Its birth followed a seven-day conference in Washington DC where opposition leaders agreed on a 10-point action plan for the impoverished nation. Beyene, who will chair the UEDF for the first six months, said its primary focus would be to defeat the current Government in the 2005 elections....Beyene said the coalition group would have a 'minimal political agenda' until the organisation managed to achieve office. But the manifesto pledge would be the 're-negotiation' of the controversial boundary ruling that has placed contested territories in Eritrea....Beyene heads the Council of Alternative Forces for Peace and

Democracy CAFPDE – one of the 15 groups that joined the conference. Among the other main parties were the All Ethiopian Unity Party (AEUP)(later to join CUD), the Oromo National Congress (ONC) and the United Ethiopian Democratic Party (UEDP) (later to join the CUD).” [9]

- 5.31 The US State Department’s Human Rights Report 2003 noted that The OLF and the ONLF refused to join the [UEDF] coalition.[3c] (p20)
- 5.32 The same Report 2003 noted that at the end of 2003 the UEDF was trying to negotiate a pledge from the Government to allow many of the parties based abroad to return to the country and set up local offices; however, the Government claimed that the coalition had not yet officially informed it of its plans. Prime Minister Meles also publicly said he supported ‘constructive engagement’ with the opposition; however, Meles publicly criticized the opposition for disloyalty and ‘politics of hate’.” [3c] (p19)
- 5.33 The Report also noted that:

“In September [2003], ruling party cadres threatened to take away land occupied by eight farmers, who were supporters of the United Ethiopia Democratic Party (UEDF), in Masha Woreda, Southern Region. Ruling party cadres told the farmers that opposition party members were not entitled to land and told them to refrain from participating in UEDF activities. When the farmers refused to comply with this demand, they were evicted from their land.” [3c] (pp10-11)
- 5.34 In the May 2005 elections the UEDF won 52 seats in the House of Representatives. The decision of the leadership, headed by Dr Beyene Petros, that they should take up their seats in the House of Representatives lead to a rift in the organisation. The following UEDF press release was issued:

“The Executive Committee of the United Ethiopian Democratic Forces, in it’s extraordinary session of October 24, 2005, has relieved Dr Beyene Petros and Dr. Merera Gudina, of their responsibilities as chairman and First Vice Chairman of UEDF, respectively. The Executive...of UEDF does not accept the validity of the election results as declared by the ruling party. Nor does it accept [sic] the legitimacy of the newly formed government....The Executive Committee has determined by a ten to three majority vote not to take seats in and be part of the illegal EPRDF controlled Parliament. The decision taken by the Chairman to participate in the illegally formed parliament, therefore, was clearly a breach of the UEDF By-laws, organizational rules and a flagrant violation UEDF National Council and the October 6, 2005 Executive Committee decisions.” (United Ethiopian Democratic Forces press release, dated 24 October 2005) [45a]
- 5.35 The US State Department’s Human Rights Report 2005 noted that: “The UEDF reported that it had to cancel a general assembly of its members planned for September 29 [2005] because the government directed hotel proprietors in Addis Ababa not to rent their assembly halls to the UEDF or other opposition parties.” [3a] (p11)

[Return to contents](#)

[Go to list of Sources](#)

OROMO NATIONAL CONGRESS (MEMBER OF UEDF)

- 5.36 The ONC was founded in 1996 by Dr Merera Gudina. It exists to oppose the Oromo People's Democratic Organization (OPDO) through legitimate electoral channels (in contrast to the armed opposition of the Oromo Liberation Front and other resistance movements, which the ONC condemns). It won one seat in the federal House of People's Representatives in the elections of 2000 (Political Parties of the World 2002 [16] (p169)). It joined the UEDF coalition to contest the May 2005 election and won seats in Oromiya region.

SOUTHERN ETHIOPIAN PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC COALITION (MEMBER OF UEDF)

- 5.37 Political Parties of the World, updated in January 2002, stated that:

"The SEPDC was founded in 1992 as a multi-party coalition under the leadership of Beyene Petros, president of the Hadiya National Democratic Organization. Having obtained a peak membership of 14 parties, it split in 1993. Strongly critical of the EPRDF government's record in office (and of the authorities' conduct of the elections), the SEPDC won three seats in the federal House of People's Representatives in 2000." [16] (p170) It joined the UEDF coalition to contest the May 2005 election. Dr Beyene headed the coalition which won seats in Southern and Oromiya regions.

COALITION FOR UNITY AND DEMOCRACY (CUD)

- 5.38 The US State Department's Human Rights Report 2005 noted that: "During the year the major opposition parties negotiated significant mergers. The AEUP, Rainbow Ethiopia, Ethiopians Democratic Party-Medhin, and the Ethiopian Democratic League formed the CUD, making it the strongest opposition political coalition in the country." [3a] (p14)
- 5.39 The CIA World Fact book Country Profile on Ethiopia – Updated 1 November 2005 notes that, Coalition for Unity and Democracy (CUD) is a Political Party and HAILU shawel is the leader. [2] (p5) An Ethiopian Review article dated 20 June 2005 confirms that Hailu Shawel's Current position is "Newly elected Member of Parliament, leader of the Coalition for Unity and Democracy (CUD) and Chairman of the All Ethiopian Unity Organization (AEUO)...Place of residence: Addis Ababa." [51a]
- 5.40 In the May 2005 election the CUD won 109 seats in the House of Representative, including all 23 Addis Ababa seats and others in Amhara, southern and Oromiya regions. The CUD also won 136 out of 138 seats in the regional administration for Addis Ababa region and a substantial share of the seats in the Amhara regional council. Many of its leaders, including its Chairman, Hailu Shawl, Vice President., Ms Birtukan Mideksa, and Mayor-elect, Berhanu Nega, along with other elected CUD representatives, have been detained since November 2005. They face a number of serious charges, including trying to undermine the Constitution. Some other elected CUD representatives have refused to take up their seats in parliament or the regional assembly. (Amnesty International) [10], (National Electoral Board of Ethiopia) [14a]
- 5.41 "Ethiopia's main opposition party on Monday threatened to boycott the next parliament unless its complaints of alleged vote rigging in last week's general

elections were resolved. Hailu Shawel, leader of the Coalition for Unity and Democracy (CUD), said his party would not join any government if it believed that the elections were unfair. 'The probability is high that we will not be part of this government - any government', he told reporters at the CUD headquarters." (IRIN 24 May 2005) [9h]

- 5.42 The CUD has faced difficulties over registration. The National Electoral Board of Ethiopia released an article on its website stating:

"The new merger announced by the four member parties of the Coalition for Unity and Democracy (CUD) has not yet been recognized by the National Electoral Board of Ethiopia (NEBE)....The United Ethiopian Democratic Party-MEDHIN, the All Ethiopian Unity Party, Rainbow Ethiopia Movement for Democracy and Social Justice and the Ethiopian Democratic League had applied on 19 October 2004 to form a Coalition for the May 15 federal and regional parliamentary elections....As clearly indicated in Article 9 of the founding document of the CUD, the Coalition will be functional until the end of the May 15 elections while the legal personality of the individual member parties remains recognized. In view of these facts, the NEBE had issued a letter of recognition to the CUD on 30 November 2004....Now that the elections have been completed and federal and regional governments have been established, the validity period of the certificate of recognition issued to the CUD has expired.... Though the four parties have recently announced that they have merged, they have not yet applied for the recognition of the merger nor have they returned the letter of recognition that had been issued to the four individual parties....The NEBE, therefore, announces that it no longer recognizes the Coalition for Unity and Democracy (CUD) and will communicate only with the four individual parties." [14]

- 5.43 News 24.com reported on 19 October 2005 that:

"Ethiopian police arrested 34 members and supporters of the CUD on weapons charges amid government claims the group was attempting to foment a coup. Citing police officials, the state-run Ethiopian News Agency reported the backers of the CUD had been detained in the southern Oromo region. The detentions come amid a CUD boycott of parliament over alleged massive fraud in the disputed May 15 elections and calling for the formation of a national unity government to hold new polls over vehement objections from the ruling party. Ethiopian officials have repeatedly accused the CUD of plotting to overthrow the government by force with its continued protests over the election results." [17a]

- 5.44 The US State Department's Human Rights Report 2005 noted that:

"In November [2005] authorities re-arrested CUD member and mayor of Addis Ababa Dr. Berhanu Nega and Professor Mesfin Woldemariam, two prominent academics and human rights activists, for participating in planning antigovernment protests aimed at the removal of the government. At year's end they remained in confinement on charges of treason and genocide, along with several members of NGOs active in civic education, and independent journalists. Other prominent CUD leaders arrested included: CUD president Hailu Shawel; Dr. Yacob Hailemariam, a former prosecutor for the UN International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda; and CUD vice-president Ms. Birtukan Mideksa, a former judge. Their prison conditions were reported to be adequate, especially those of the CUD leaders, who had separate cells.

However, access to legal counsel was sporadic, and there were serious concerns about access to adequate medical care.” [3a] (p6)

5.45 The BBC reported on 28 November 2005 that:

“Three opposition leaders and a human rights activist in Ethiopia say they will go on hunger strike from Monday in protest against their detention. The four were arrested at the beginning of this month during violent protests over May's disputed election results. They have not been formally charged but Prime Minister Meles Zenawi says they could be tried for treason. CUD leader Hailu Shawel and two top party officials say their detention is politically-motivated. ‘We have decided to go on hunger strike indefinitely beginning Monday, 28 November 2005 – we will take only liquids’, said top CUD (Coalition for Unity and Democracy) official and mayor-elect of Addis Ababa, Berhanu Nega, speaking to journalists at Ethiopia's central investigation centre. ‘This is a political case, not a criminal one’, said Mr Hailu. Prominent human rights activist Professor Mesfin Woldemariam and deputy CUD leader Birtukan Midek are also being held.” [7]

5.46 IRIN News stated in an article dated 8 December 2005 that:

“Ethiopia's main opposition party, the Coalition for Unity and Democracy (CUD), called on Wednesday for dialogue with the government as its detained leaders entered the 10th day of their hunger strike. Dialogue, the CUD said in a statement, was the only option for resolving their bitter dispute with the ruling party. Lawyers who visited the CUD members in prison on Wednesday said the detainees had lost a considerable amount of weight but were in good spirits. The leaders said they were in good health. The call for dialogue came as more than 50 CUD members ended their boycott of parliament. The party had refused to assume the 109 seats it won in the 15 May parliamentary elections, claiming the vote was rigged in favour of the Ethiopian People's Revolutionary Democratic Front, the ruling party. The CUD leaders in prison face possible treason charges, although they have not been formally charged since their detention on 1 November.” [9n]

5.47 The Sudan Tribune reported in an article on 16 January 2006 stated that:

“The administration of the Ethiopian capital Addis Ababa, will not be handed to the elected team because elected council members of the opposition Coalition for Unity and Democracy (CUD) failed to register, the National Electoral Board of Ethiopia (NEBE) said in a statement. After repeated calls, the NEBE said the number of registered Councillors could not enable them to form the Addis Ababa City Administration Council. Only 54 of the 138 elected people's Councillors had registered since January 12–15, 2006. The refusal by CUD councillors to register means the opposition stronghold of Addis Ababa will continue to be run by an appointed transitional administration dominated by the ruling Ethiopian People's Revolutionary Democratic Front (EPRDF). The subject would be referred to the Federal Parliament for decision, Board Deputy Head Tesfaye Mengesha told the state-run ENA.” [18a]

[Return to contents](#)

[Go to list of Sources](#)

ALL ETHIOPIAN UNITY PARTY (MEMBER OF CUD)

- 5.48 All-Ethiopian Unity Party (AEUP) emerged from a split in the All Amhara People's Organization." [1a] (p444)
- 5.49 PO had been established in 1991 to defend the rights of the Amhara people, which it believed were best served by a unitary Ethiopian state rather than the federation advocated by the Ethiopian People's Revolutionary Democratic Front [EPRDF] (and implemented in the 1995 constitution). The AAPO's then leader was jailed from 1994 to 1998, having been convicted of incitement to armed insurrection. The AAPO boycotted the 1995 federal elections but contested those of 2000 in order to retain its party registration (which would otherwise have been withdrawn). It fielded 17 candidates for the House of People's Representatives and won one seat in Addis Ababa." (Political Parties of the World, 2002) [16] (p168)
- 5.50 AEUP supporters reported attacks by government militia against them during 2004. Local officials often turned a blind eye to these attacks or were complicit in them. On May 5, government militia assaulted Habtamu Baye of Seha Tefases Farmers Association in Shebel Berenta District as he returned from an AEUP meeting. On May 6, government militiamen Habte Endale and Bimirew Adal beat AEUP supporter Endashaw Alemu in Enemay District in East Gojjam Zone, Amhara Region. On May 13, government militiamen beat AEUP party organizer Damtew Ayele in Rabel District, North Shoa Zone, Amhara Region, according to AEUP reports. No action was taken against those responsible. (US State Department Human Rights Report 2004) [3b] (p3-4)

The AEUP leader is Hailu Shawl who is also Chairman of CUD. The AEUP initially joined the UEDF coalition when it was formed in 2003. It later broke away to form the CUD and contested the May 2005 election as a member of the CUD coalition. It was particularly successful in Amhara region.

ETHIOPIAN DEMOCRATIC PARTY

- 5.51 Political Parties of the World, updated in January 2002, stated that:

"The EDP was formed in 1998 following a split in the All Amhara People's Organization [AAPO]. It fielded 15 candidates for the federal House of People's Representatives in May 2000, winning two seats in Addis Ababa. Its policies included land reforms to benefit peasant farmers. EDP party members (including candidates in current local government elections) were among those targeted by the security forces in May 2001 in a campaign against 'political activists' following the violent suppression of student demonstrations in Addis Ababa." [16] (p169) Now part of the UEDP (see below).

UNITED ETHIOPIAN DEMOCRATIC PARTY (MEMBER OF CUD)

- 5.52 The Africa South of the Sahara its 2005 Report stated that the United Ethiopian Democratic Party (UEDP) was formed in 2003 "by the merger of the United Ethiopian Democratic Unity Party and the Ethiopian Democratic Party." [1a] (p444)

- 5.53 RIN news observed in a report dated 14 July 2003 that: the EDP has since joined forces with the Ethiopian Democratic Union Party to form the United Ethiopian Democratic Party (UEDP). Its leader Dr Admasu Gebeyehu said it had some 20,000 members and described it as 'one of the largest' political parties in the country. [9o] **The EUDP joined with another party, Medhin, and as EUDP-Medhin formed part of the CUD coalition contesting the May 2005 election.**

THE RAINBOW PARTY OF BERHANU NEGA

- 5.54 The Rainbow Party is one of the parties that forms the CUD alliance. The Rainbow leader is Berhanu Nega who was one of many arrested in November following the demonstrations in protest against the May 2005 elections. [7r], [9ah]

OROMO FEDERALIST DEMOCRATIC MOVEMENT (OFDM)

- 5.55 According to the OFDM website the party was formed in 2004 and recognises that the Constitution should be amended to include certain fundamental principles in which OFDM believes. They won 11 seats in the May 2005 elections, mainly in western Welega (Oromiya region). [19], [14]

COUNCIL OF ALTERNATIVE FORCES FOR PEACE AND DEMOCRACY IN ETHIOPIA

- 5.56 The CAFPDE was formed in 1993 but was unable to contest the 1995 elections because it was not granted official registration until mid-1996. Chaired by Beyene Petros and included his Southern Ethiopia People's Democratic Coalition [SEPPDC] among its constituent groupings. The CAFPDE split in December 1999 (Political Parties of the World, 2002, [16] (p168) The CAFPDE elements that were active in Ethiopia went on to form the UEDF to contest the 2005 elections.

HADIYA NATIONAL DEMOCRATIC ORGANIZATION (MEMBER OF UEDF)

- 5.57 Political Parties of the World, updated in January 2002, documented that: "The HNDO, founded in 1991, is a regionally-registered party associated with several wider alliances promoted by its leader Beyene Petros (see Prominent People). His outspoken criticisms of government encroachment on human rights and political freedoms make him one of the most prominent opposition figures in Ethiopian parliament. [16] (p169)

REBEL GROUPS/ILLEGAL OPPOSITION PARTIES

AI-ITTihad AL-ISLAM (AIAI)

- 5.58 The Europa World Yearbook 2003, Report on Ethiopia, stated that:

"The Somali-based al-Ittihad al-Islam (AIAI) which sought independence for Ethiopia's Ogaden province, claimed responsibility for bomb explosions at hotels in Addis Ababa and Dire Dawa in early 1996, and for the attempted assassination in July of Dr Abdul-Mejid Hussen, the Minister of Transport and Communications. Government forces launched reprisal attacks on al-Ittihad bases in Somalia on numerous occasions during 1996-98, resulting in the deaths of several hundred al-Ittihad members." [1c] (p1567)

OROMO LIBERATION FRONT

5.59 On 3 March 2004, IRIN news reported that:

“Ethiopia’s human rights group on Wednesday condemned the mass arrests and physical abuse in January [2004] of hundreds of university students in the capital, Addis Ababa. The Ethiopian Human Rights Council (EHRCO) said federal officers had rounded up 349 students belonging to the Oromo ethnic group before transporting them to a detention centre....The students – members of the country’s largest ethnic group – had then been forced to march barefoot or on their knees along a gravel path for several hours.” [9p]

5.60 The article further added: “The mass arrests, which took place in late January, were sparked after a disturbance erupted on the university campus. It followed a dispute between the students and the university authorities over a cultural show supported by the Oromo People’s Democratic Organization (OPDO), one of four political parties in the ruling coalition, the Ethiopian People’s Revolutionary Democratic Front.” [9p]

5.61 The OLF, as part of its mission as stated on its website is that:

“The Oromo Liberation Front (OLF) is a political organization established in 1973 by Oromo nationalists to lead the national liberation struggle of the Oromo people against the Abyssinian colonial rule. The emergence of the OLF was a culmination of a century old yearn of the Oromo people to have a strong and unified national organization to lead the struggle....The fundamental objective of the Oromo liberation movement is to exercise the Oromo peoples’ inalienable right to national self-determination to terminate a century of oppression and exploitation, and to form, where possible, a political union with other nations on the basis of equality, respect for mutual interests and the principle of voluntary associations”. [20a] Whereas, Political Parties of the World, updated in January 2002, noted that: “Formed in 1975, the OLF operated through different branches with little central leadership, having a minor contribution to the military struggle against the Mengistu regime compared with the contributions of Eritrean forces or the TPLF. Mutual antipathy between the OLF and TPLF led to the creation, under the latter’s auspices, of the rival OPDO in 1990. Initially committed to an independent Oromo state, the OLF said in June 1991 that it would support substantial regional autonomy within a federal Ethiopia, and in August 1991 it accepted four ministerial posts in the TGE headed by Meles Zenawi of what had then become the EPRDF.” [16] (p169)

5.62 Political Parties of the World, updated in January 2002, stated that:

“Clashes between members of the OLF and members of OPDO (an EPRDF member party) during the run-up to elections led to a final break with the EPRDF in 1992, after which the OLF went into armed opposition to the Government, carrying out low-level guerilla operations and advocating boycotts of all elections. The OLF also clashed with rival Oromo rebel groups (some of which had come into being through splits in the OLF).” [16] (p169)

5.63 The article further noted that: “In July 2000 the OLF held a meeting with three other groups (United Oromo Liberation Front, Oromo Liberation Council and Islamic Front for the Liberation) to discuss joint action against the Ethiopian

Government, which had ignored a peace proposal put forward by the OLF in February 2000.” [16] (p169)

- 5.64 The Africa South of the Sahara 2005 Report stated that: “In October 2000 a conference in Eritrea, where the OLF was by this time based, brought together six Oromo opposition parties, including the OLF and the Islamic Front for the Liberation of Oromia, as the United Liberation Forces of Oromia.” [1a] (p427)
- 5.65 Human Rights Watch in its 2003 Report stated that:
- “Since the Government banned the OLF a decade before, thousands of alleged OLF members or sympathizers have been arrested, and this trend continued in 2002...As of March [2002], more than 1,700 such prisoners were reportedly held at the Ghimbi central prison, half of them arrested recently and the rest having been there for five to ten years, some without charge. Hundreds more were detained in prisons and police jails across Oromiya State. Prisoners who were released or escaped from incarceration reported severe torture while imprisoned. The Oromiya State Minister for Capacity Building, who fled the country in May [2002], denounced the state Government for indiscriminately accusing the Oromo people of supporting the OLF.” [11d] (p2)
- 5.66 The Report further documented that: “Reliable sources reported that the Eritrean Government was giving logistical support, training, and weapons to OLF guerrillas attempting to infiltrate Ethiopia from Sudan, and to armed Tigrean groups opposed to the current Ethiopian government.” [11d] (p4)
- 5.67 The US State Department’s Human Rights Report 2005 noted that: “Armed elements of the Oromo Liberation Front (OLF) and the Ogaden National Liberation Front (ONLF) continued to operate within the country. Clashes with government forces on numerous occasions resulted in the death of an unknown number of civilians, government security forces, and OLF and ONLF troops and members.” [3a] (p2)
- 5.68 Human Rights Watch, in its 2004 Report stated that:
- “A businesswoman, Dinkinesh Deressa, arrested in June 2002 and charged with being a member of the Oromo Liberation Front (OLF), an armed opposition group, was released on bail in July 2002. Three days later she was rearrested on the same charge and denied bail. Although the presentation of evidence in her trial ended one year later, in July 2003, she remained incarcerated without judgment at the end of 2003.” [11c] (p2)

For more information see section titled [Oromos](#)

OGADEN NATIONAL LIBERATION FRONT

- 5.69 The Africa South of the Sahara 2005 Report stated that:
- “The Ogaden National Liberation Front (ONLF), a party based in Somali state, which split in 1995 allowing the pro-government Ethiopian Somali Democratic League (ESDL) to win the elections in 1995 and 2000. The OLF and the ONLF signed a military co-operation agreement in July 1996, but have made few inroads despite Eritrean support and training since 1998. They demand greater autonomy and firmer commitments to possible independence, claiming that the

EPRDF had no intention of allowing succession, deliberately making the process lengthy and difficult...The ONLF also received support from another Somali organization, the Islamic Union Party (al-Ittihad al-Islam), which has been fighting for an Islamic state in Somalia.” [1a] (p427)

ETHIOPIAN PEOPLE’S REVOLUTIONARY PARTY

5.70 The political programme as described in the EPRP website reported that:

“The Ethiopian People’s Revolutionary Party (the EPRP), formed in April 1972 to respond to the need of people’s struggle for a political organization, has fought for more than two decades for the right of the Ethiopian people to be masters of their own destiny. The EPRP is continuing with this lofty and historic struggle because, at present as in the past, the Ethiopian people are deprived of their basic and inalienable human and democratic rights.” The EPRP did not take part in the elections of 2005 although it had some links with the UEDF coalition overseas. [21a]

THE JUDICIARY

OVERVIEW

5.71 The Constitution provides for an independent judiciary, [4] (p32) however the US Department of State’s Human Rights Report 2005 noted that: “While the law provides for an independent judiciary, the judiciary remained weak and overburdened. Most perceived the judiciary to be subject to significant political intervention.” [3a] (p6)

5.72 The Report continued:

“The government continued to decentralize and restructure the judiciary along federal lines with the establishment of courts at the district, zonal, and regional levels. The federal high court and the federal Supreme Court heard and adjudicated original and appeal cases involving federal law, transregional issues, and national security. The regional judiciary was increasingly autonomous and often heard regional cases....Regional offices of the federal Ministry of Justice monitored local judicial developments. Some regional courts had jurisdiction over both local and federal matters, as the federal courts in those jurisdictions had not begun operation; overall, the federal judicial presence in the regions was limited. Anecdotal evidence suggested that some local officials believed they were not accountable to a higher authority. Pending the passage of regional legislation, federal procedural and substantive codes guide all judges....To remedy the severe lack of experienced staff in the judicial system, the government continued to identify and train lower court judges and prosecutors, although officials acknowledged salaries did not attract the desired number of competent professionals.” [3a] (pp6-7)

5.73 Europa World Online Report noted that:

“Judicial powers are vested in the courts, both at federal and state level. The supreme federal judicial authority is the Federal Supreme Court. This court has the highest and final power of jurisdiction over federal matters. The federal states of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia can establish Supreme,

High and First-Instance Courts. The Supreme Courts of the federal States have the highest and the final power of jurisdiction over state matters. They also exercise the jurisdiction of the Federal High Court. According to the Constitution, courts of any level are free from any interference or influence from government bodies, government officials or any other source. In addition, judges exercise their duties independently and are directed solely by the law.” [1d]

5.74 The Human Rights Watch 2006 World Report noted that:

“The courts in Ethiopia often step in to order the release of government critics jailed on trumped-up charges of treason or armed insurrection. However, judicial action often occurs only after unreasonably long delays, both because of the courts’ enormous workload and because of excessive judicial deference to bad faith police requests for additional time to produce evidence. In addition, courts have shown themselves far less likely to contest prolonged pretrial detention in high-profile cases that have the attention of high-level federal officials.” [11a]

5.75 The US Department of State’s Human Right Report, 2005 noted: “Three federal judges sat on one bench to hear all cases involving juvenile offenses. There was a large backlog of juvenile cases, and accused children often remained in detention with adults until officials heard their cases.” [3a] (p7)

FORMER MEMBERS OF THE DERGUE/WORKERS PARTY OF ETHIOPIA

5.76 “Fourteen years after the overthrow of the former military government (the Derg), several thousand of its former officials remain jailed awaiting trial, charged with genocide, crimes against humanity, and major felonies. Former dictator Mengistu Haile Mariam, on trial in absentia, remains a guest of the Mugabe government in Zimbabwe, with little chance of being held accountable for his abuses so long as he remains there.” (Human Rights Watch Report of 2006) [11a]

5.77 Two former members of the Dergue, Berhanu Bayeh and Addis Tedla have been sheltering in the Italian embassy for nearly 15 years. No-one from outside the embassy is allowed access to them. The Italians have always refused to surrender the men to the current Ethiopian government led by Mr Meles because Ethiopia still maintains the death penalty. According to the BBC, the two have become a diplomatic embarrassment. If they ever left the Italian embassy, they would almost certainly be arrested by the Ethiopian authorities and charged, like other members of the old regime.” (BBC Report of 28 December 2005) [7k]

5.78 The US Department of State’s Human Rights Report 2003 noted that:

“The SPO [Special Prosecutors Office] was established in 1992 to create an historical record of the abuses committed during the Mengistu Government (1975–91) – also known as the Dergue regime – and to bring to justice those criminally responsible for human rights violations. The SPO had authority to arrest and interrogate anyone suspected of involvement in the 1976 ‘Red Terror’ Campaign under Mengistu and other crimes. [3c] (p9) Approximately one thousand persons remained in detention charged with Derg-era offenses. Court-appointed attorneys, sometimes with inadequate skills and experience,

represented many of the defendants.” (The US Department of State’s Human Rights Report 2005) [3a] (p7)

5.79 IRIN news reported on 1 March 2004 that:

“Jailed colleagues of former leader, Mengistu Haile-Mariam, [have asked] to be allowed to apologise for the atrocities perpetrated during his rule...top officials being tried for genocide wrote to Prime Minister Meles Zenawi asking for ‘forgiveness’ for crimes committed 30 years ago...Copies of the letter were sent to US President George W. Bush, UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan and former South African President Nelson Mandela. There has been no public response by Meles or his government to the letter, which was sent in August 2003.” [9q]

Please also refer to section on [Death Penalty](#) for additional information on SPO trials.

LEGAL RIGHTS AND DETENTION

OVERVIEW

5.80 “State media said 656 prisoners were still being held at Ziway detention camp, 150 km south of the capital. A second detention centre, Dedesa, located 400 km west of Addis Ababa, was closed in December amid allegations of prisoner abuse. Its 2,678 prisoners were transferred to Ziway. Opposition lawmakers maintain that more detainees are being held at other camps around the country....Among those detained are Hailu Shawel, chairman of the opposition Coalition for Unity and Democracy party; Berhanu Nega, mayor of Addis Ababa; and Mesfin Wolde Mariam, a prominent human rights activist. They are part of a group of 129 opposition leaders, journalists and aid workers who face charges of treason, genocide and other charges relating to the violence.” (IRIN reported on 16 January 2006) [9j]

5.81 The US Department of State’s Human Rights Report 2005 noted that: “According to the law, accused persons have the right to a fair public trial by a court of law within a ‘reasonable time;’ the right to a presumption of innocence; the right to be represented by legal counsel of their choice; and the right to appeal.” [3a] (p7)

5.82 The Report further noted:

“Although the law prohibits arbitrary arrest and detention, the government frequently did not observe these provisions in practice....Authorities regularly detained persons without warrants and denied access to counsel and family members, particularly in outlying regions, and for those thousands of young persons detained during and after the November [2005] riots. According to law, detainees must be informed of the charges against them within 48 hours, but this generally was not respected in practice. While there was a functioning bail system, it was not available for some offenses, including murder, treason, and corruption. In most cases authorities set bail between \$115 and \$1,150 (1 to 10 thousand birr), which was too costly for most citizens. In addition police officials did not always respect court orders to release suspects on bail. With court

approval, persons suspected of serious offenses can be detained for 14 days while police conduct an investigation, and for additional 14-day periods while the investigation continues. The law prohibits detention in any facilities other than an official detention center; however, there were dozens of crude, unofficial local detention centers used by local government militia. In the Oromiya region, a police training facility was used as a makeshift prison during and after the November [2005] riots....The government provided public defenders for detainees unable to afford private legal counsel, but only when their cases went to court. While in pretrial detention, authorities allowed such detainees little or no contact with legal counsel.” [3a] (p5)

5.83 The US Department of State’s Human Rights Report 2005 noted that:

“The law requires judicial search warrants to search private property; however, in practice, particularly outside of Addis Ababa, police often searched property without obtaining warrants. Opposition party representatives claimed that police sometimes used fraudulent warrants to enter homes and commit criminal acts, including money extortion. There were reports that members of the Federal Police robbed persons during the year, including through the use of false warrants.” [3a] (p7)

5.84 The Report further noted that: “There continued to be reports that police forcibly entered the homes of civilians. There also were reports that security forces took persons from their homes in the middle of the night without warrants.” [3a] (p7)

5.85 The Report also stated that:

“According to the law, accused persons have the right to a fair public trial by a court of law within a ‘reasonable time;’ the right to a presumption of innocence; the right to be represented by legal counsel of their choice; and the right to appeal. Despite these protections, closed proceedings occurred, at times authorities allowed detainees little or no contact with their legal counsel and detainees usually were not presumed innocent. The public defender’s office provides legal counsel to indigent defendants, although its scope remained severely limited, particularly with respect to SPO trials. Although the law explicitly stipulates that persons charged with corruption are to be shown the body of evidence against them prior to their trials, authorities routinely denied defense counsel access to such evidence before trial.” [3a] (p7)

5.86 The US Department of State’s Human Rights Report 2005 also stated that:

“The law provides legal standing to some pre-existing religious and customary courts and allows federal and regional legislatures to recognize other courts. By law, all parties to a dispute must agree that a customary or religious court will be used before it may hear a case. Shari’a (Islamic) courts may hear religious and family cases involving Muslims. In addition, other traditional systems of justice, such as councils of elders, continued to function. Although not sanctioned by law, these traditional courts resolved disputes for the majority of citizens who lived in rural areas, and who generally had little access to formal judicial systems.” [3a] (p7)

[Return to contents](#)

[Go to list of Sources](#)

DEATH PENALTY

- 5.87 The Hands Off Cain website reported on 9 December 2005 that: "The Federal High Court sentenced to death Major Melaku Tefera, one of Marxist dictator Mengistu Haile Mariam's top soldiers, for genocide during the country's 1970s 'Red Terror' campaign." [22a]
- 5.88 The BBC reported in an article dated 11 August 2005 that: "Two senior members of Ethiopia's former military government have been sentenced to death after an 11-year trial. Former Security Minister Tesfaye Woldeselassie and ex-police chief Legesse Belayneh were found guilty of torturing thousands of dissidents. [7l], [17b]
- 5.89 Amnesty International, in its 2005 Annual Report, stated that: "Several death sentences were imposed, but no executions were reported. In October, three OLF fighters detained since 1992, including Asili Mohamed, were sentenced to death after being convicted of killing and torturing civilians in Bedeno town in 1992. They denied the charges and their appeal to the Supreme Court was pending at the end of the year [2004]." [10a] (p3)
- 5.90 The Hands Off Cain website reported on 20 April, 2005: "Ethiopia voted against the resolution on the death penalty at the 61st UN Commission on Human Rights." [22b]
- 5.91 The Hands Off Cain website also noted that on 1 March 2005 the Ethiopian News Agency had reported:
- "The Federal High Court of Ethiopia sentenced to death Colonel Tiruneh Habteselassie for genocide committed during the Dergue regime in the former Kembata and Hadiya district. Habteselassie was found guilty on two charges, homicide and extrajudicial imprisonment of people. Prosecutors produced evidence against Col. Tiruneh that corroborated his involvement in the killing of 32 people whom he alleged were members of the Ethiopian Peoples Revolutionary Party (EPRP) [22c]
- 5.92 Amnesty International in its 2004 Annual Report stated that: "Six defendants were sentenced to death in different Dergue trials during 2003. They were convicted of killings under former President Mengistu, including of the 'disappeared Patriarch of the Ethiopian Orthodox Church, Abune Tewoflos, in 1978. No appeals had been heard by the end of 2003. The only previous death sentences in these trials had been imposed *in absentia*. Almost all defendants faced a possible death penalty." [10b] (p3)
- 5.93 The BBC reported on 21 October 2004: "Three men have been sentenced to death in Ethiopia after being found guilty of mass murder of more than 200 people over a decade ago. The court said the men were all members of the rebel Oromo Liberation Front." [7m]

Further information on Death Penalty news can be located in the [Dergue trials](#) section

[Return to contents](#)

[Go to list of Sources](#)

INTERNAL SECURITY

- 5.94 The US Department of State's Human Rights Report 2004 noted that:

"The security forces consist of the military, federal and local police, and local militias. The police have primary responsibility for internal security, but local militias outside police command also operated as local security forces. The army is responsible for external security but also has some domestic security responsibilities, particularly along borders with neighbouring countries.... Military forces continued to conduct a number of low level operations against the Oromo Liberation Front (OLF), the Somalia based Al Ittihad Al Islami terrorist organization, and elements of the Ogaden National Liberation Front (ONLF). While civilian authorities generally maintained effective control of the security forces, there were some instances in which elements of the security forces acted independently of government authority. Members of the security forces committed serious human rights abuses." [3b] (p1)

- 5.95 The Human Rights Watch Report dated 2006 stated that: "Government officials and security forces in much of Ethiopia make routine use of various forms of human rights abuse to deter and punish dissent. For more than a decade, authorities in the country's vast Oromia region have used exaggerated concerns about armed insurgency and terrorism to justify the torture, imprisonment and sustained harassment of their critics and even ordinary citizens." [11a]

PRISONS AND PRISON CONDITIONS

- 5.96 The US Department of State's Human Rights Report 2005 documented that:

"Prison and pretrial detention center conditions remained very poor, and overcrowding continued to be a serious problem. Prisoners often were allocated fewer than 21.5 square feet of sleeping space in a room that could contain up to 200 persons. The daily meal budget was approximately 25 cents (2 birr) per prisoner, and many prisoners had family members deliver food daily or used personal funds to purchase food from local vendors. Prison conditions were unsanitary, and access to medical care was unreliable. There was no budget for prison maintenance." [3a] (p4)

- 5.97 The Report continued:

"In detention centers police often physically abused detainees. Diplomatic observers reported firsthand accounts of such beatings from Addis Ababa University student detainees in Oromiya. Authorities generally permitted visitors, but sometimes denied them access to detainees. While statistics were unavailable, there were some deaths in prison due to illness and poor health care. Prison officials were not forthcoming with reports of such deaths." [3a] (p4)

- 5.98 The Report also noted:

"During the year [2005] the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) generally had access to federal and regional prisons, civilian detention facilities, and police stations throughout the country, and conducted hundreds of visits involving thousands of detainees. The government also granted diplomatic missions access, subject to advance notification, to prison officials. Authorities

allowed the ICRC to meet regularly with prisoners without third parties being present. The ICRC received permission to visit military detention facilities where the government detained suspected OLF fighters. The ICRC also continued to visit civilian Eritrean nationals and local citizens of Eritrean origin detained on alleged national security grounds.” [3a] (p4)

- 5.99 The US Department of State’s Human Rights Report covering 2004 documented that:

“Female prisoners were held separately from men; however, juveniles sometimes were incarcerated with adults. There was only 1 juvenile remand home for children under age 15, with the capacity to hold 150 children. Juveniles who could not be accommodated at the juvenile remand home were incarcerated with adults. Pretrial detainees were usually detained separately from convicted prisoners at local police stations or in the limited Central Investigation Division (CID) detention facility in Addis Ababa until they were charged. The law requires that prisoners be transferred to federal prisons upon conviction; however, this requirement sometimes was not enforced in practice.” [3b] (p5)

- 5.100 The Report further added that: “There were many reports from opposition party members that in small towns, persons were detained in police stations for long periods without access to a judge and that sometimes these persons’ whereabouts were unknown for several months.” [3b] (p5)

- 5.101 Human Rights Watch, in its 2003 Report, stated that:

“Prison conditions were harsh in the provinces and in Addis Ababa. Medical care was rudimentary and rationed to a handful of prisoners per day. Prisoners with AIDS reportedly received no treatment, and former prisoners reported having witnessed deaths of prisoners with serious diseases such as tuberculosis. Prisoners were denied access to bathing facilities, mattresses, and blankets. Some released in 2002 told of being detained in such crowded confinement that they had had to take turns sleeping. Food was meagre but adequate. Prisoners who had family living nearby were normally allowed to receive food from family members. In May 2002 the International Committee of the Red Cross reported it had access to 4,800 security detainees in 150 places of detention.” [11d] (pp2-3)

- 5.102 Amnesty International, in its 2003 Report, stated that: “Torture of political prisoners, particularly those accused of links with armed opposition groups, continued to be frequently reported. Several women accused of involvement with such groups were reportedly raped.” [10c] (p3)

- 5.103 Following deep concern over the treatment of prisoners in Ethiopia, prison officials underwent training from the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) to improve the conditions for inmates in October 2003 as reported by IRIN. [9r]

[Return to contents](#)

[Go to list of Sources](#)

THE MILITARY

MILITARY SERVICE

5.104 War Resisters International (1998) stated that:

“There is no compulsory military service in Ethiopia...enlistment is on a voluntary basis.” [23] The Africa South of the Sahara 2005 Report stated that: “The size of the army increased sharply between 1998 and 2000 after hostilities broke out between Ethiopia and Eritrea in May 1998...However, following the signing of the peace accord between the two countries in December 2000, the Ethiopian Government commenced a major demobilization programme, and by early 2003 there remained only about 156,000 in the Ethiopian armed forces. Plans to replace militia with an unarmed but trained reservist force of up to 200,000 advanced during 2004 under a series of security reform measures addressing police, prison and military issues.” [1a] (p429)

5.105 The US State Department’s Human Rights Report 2004 noted that: “The military remained an ethnically diverse organization; however, diversity was less common in the higher ranks among officer personnel, which was dominated by members of the Tigrayan ethnic group.” [3b] (p19)

5.106 The USSD 2005 Report stated: “The military justice system lacked adequately trained staff to handle a growing caseload. Foreign assistance to train military justice officials resumed during the year [2005].” [3a] (p7)

CHILD SOLDIERS

5.107 Child Soldiers in its 2004 Report on Ethiopia stated that:

“National recruitment guidelines in use since 1991 specify that recruits must be between the ages of 18 and 25, and have completed six years of secondary education (two years for recruits from marginalised regions). However, in 2001 the lack of a birth registration system was noted with concern by the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child. Recruitment officers were believed to have operated with considerable discretion, putting minors at risk of recruitment, particularly in rural and impoverished communities.” [24]

5.108 The US State Department’s Human Rights Report 2002 noted that:

“Scarce birth certificates, poor educational opportunities, patriotism, and pervasive poverty encouraged underage applicants to try to circumvent restrictions on underage soldiers. If a unit commander suspected but could not prove that a soldier was underage, he could transfer the soldier from a front-line combat unit to a rear-area command. There were no reports of children joining local militias during the year [2002].” [3d] (p24)

MEDICAL SERVICES

GENERAL SITUATION

5.109 Vital indicators: The 'crude' death rate is estimated by different sources to be 14.8 per 1,000 population, about double that of Kenya and second only to

Uganda in eastern Africa. Life expectancy at birth (LEB) of males and females is 49.7 years and 52.4 years respectively. The infant mortality rate (IMR) is estimated at 105 per 1,000 live births while the child mortality rate (CMR) is 172 deaths per 1,000. The maternal mortality rate (MMR) is estimated at 500–700 per 100,000. (Ethiopian Embassy) [5c]

- 5.110 Burden of disease: The total burden of disease, as measured by premature death from all causes, is approximately 350 deaths per year (D/Ys) lost per 1,000 population. Ethiopia's burden of disease is significantly higher than in neighbouring Kenya (estimated at 170 D/Ys lost per 1,000 population) and in East Africa as a whole (which has a burden of disease of 280 D/Ys lost per 1,000 population). (Ethiopian Embassy) [5c]
- 5.111 Ethiopia's burden of disease is dominated by pre-natal and maternal conditions and by acute respiratory infection (ARI), followed by malaria, nutritional deficiency, diarrhoea and AIDS. Indeed, the top ten causes of mortality account for 74 per cent of all deaths and 81 per cent of D/Ys lost. Diseases that affect children under the age of 5 years (ARI, diarrhoea, nutritional deficiencies and measles) account for 33 per cent of deaths. Although largely preventable, childhood and maternal illnesses and communicable diseases are the major causes of death in Ethiopia (Ethiopian Embassy) [5c]

HEALTH SERVICE COVERAGE AND UTILISATION

- 5.112 Health service coverage: The overall level of health service coverage is estimated to be approximately 45 per cent. The actual coverage estimates for the individual programmes are very low. (Ethiopian Embassy) [5c]
- 5.113 The major reasons for the poor coverage of health services in Ethiopia are the limited physical access of the population to health facilities and staff, as illustrated by the facility to population ratio. Currently, health facilities for a population of some 58 million people comprise 89 hospitals, 191 health centres, 1,175 health posts and 2,515 health stations. The available health care facilities are also unevenly distributed across regions. (Ethiopian Embassy) [5c]
- 5.114 Health service utilisation: Total outpatient utilisation of government health facilities in Ethiopia suggests that, on average, there are about 0.25 visits per person per year. A household survey on health care utilisation found that only 10 per cent of persons reporting illness actually obtained treatment for their conditions from any health facility, government or private. Utilisation by the rural population (9.5 percent), as compared to 14 per cent in urban areas, is lower than the national average. (Ethiopian Embassy) [5c]

HEALTH SERVICES QUALITY

- 5.115 Health services quality has been compromised by inadequate and poorly maintained infrastructure and equipment, scarcity of trained health personnel, and the unavailability of drugs and pharmaceutical supplies. (Ethiopian Embassy) [5c]
- 5.116 An estimated 20,000 health care workers provide services in Ethiopia, the vast majority through the public sector. Not only are the ratios of health personnel to

population substantially less than the average for Sub-Saharan Africa, but the situation is worsened by the fact that a considerable number of staff (one-third of doctors and one-sixth of nurses) work in Addis Ababa where about 4 per cent of the country's population live. (Ethiopian Embassy) [5c]

- 5.117 Médecins Sans Frontières reported an outbreak of meningitis in the Welayita region of the Southern Nations, Nationalities and Peoples Region in a press article of 20 February 2006. "In four weeks, the total number of cases reached 89 (including 13 deaths) in Kendo Kocha and 52 (three deaths) in Boloro Sore.... A vaccination campaign was initiated with the Ministry of Health targetting more than 200,000 people (everyone between the ages of 2 and 30 not previously vaccinated)." [25a]
- 5.118 A Médecins Sans Frontières article dated 5 December 2005 about treating TB patients in the middle of the desert stated that:
- "MSF is working in Ethiopia's desolate Afar region to treat nomads who are suffering from TB. As herders, the Afars move their animals every three or four months in search of good grazing areas and adequate water. The region's only health facilities are found mostly in towns along the main roads, far from the Afar's pasture land and water sites. The area's remoteness makes it difficult for the Afar to access TB treatment and adhere to the requirements of standard treatment....Most patients diagnosed with TB must travel daily to a health clinic to receive and be observed taking their medicines." [25b]
- 5.119 The World Health Organisation reported on a two-round polio vaccination campaign in October and November 2005 which reached 15.5 million children under five in all parts of Ethiopia. More than 100,000 volunteers and health workers participated in the campaign. [26a] WHO reported on 13 January 2006 that: "Additional rounds of polio vaccination campaigns will be necessary after the recent identification of three children who were found to be infected with wild poliovirus in East Harerghe Zone of Oromia Region. Symptom onset ranged between 12 October and 6 December 2005. Unfortunately, the most recent case had symptom onset after the November National Immunization Days vaccination campaign. This indicates that wild poliovirus has managed to continue circulation in the area, despite the recent campaigns. Therefore, at least two more wide scale campaigns will be necessary to ensure interruption of the poliovirus." [26b]
- 5.120 Médecins Sans Frontières reported on 28 October 2005 that:
- "The MSF project in Humera is the only programme in Ethiopia, and one of very few in the world which is treating people co-infected with Kala azar and HIV....The disease tends to develop in people living in poor and rural regions, especially those whose immune systems have already been weakened by malnutrition or other diseases, particularly HIV/AIDS. If left untreated, close to 95% of those who contract kala azar die." [25c]
- 5.121 On 27 June 2005 Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) reported that: "A severe outbreak of kala azar, a rare and fatal disease, has struck the region of Amhara, northwest Ethiopia. In the small rural community of Bura (pop: 6,000) more than

150 people have died and over 230 infected persons have already been recorded.” [25d]

5.122 ORBIS, an organisation dedicated to saving sight worldwide, stated:

“Nearly one million Ethiopians are blind and an estimated three to four million adults and children are visually impaired. The main causes of blindness in Ethiopia are cataract, trachoma, glaucoma and corneal opacities. Services for uncorrected refractive error, another major cause of visual impairment, are almost totally non-existent there. The available eye care personnel in Ethiopia are: 76 ophthalmologists, four cataract surgeons, 93 ophthalmic nurses and ophthalmic medical assistants and 258 eye care workers. The ophthalmologist/population ratio is approximately 1:1 million nationally. However, the ratio is one ophthalmologist to approximately five million people in rural areas. There is just one training institute (Department of Ophthalmology, Medical Faculty, Addis Ababa University), which graduates only three or four ophthalmologists per year, and there are just two ophthalmic nurse training schools.” [27a]

5.123 ORBIS further stated in an article about fighting blindness with Zithromax, accessed on 25 January 2006, that: “In the Gurage Zone of central Ethiopia ORBIS has had great success in combating Trachoma. This year, our rural community health agents administered the antibiotic Zithromax to 200,000 people, a 14% increase on last year....One single oral dose of Zithromax clears the infection and thus prevents the scarring that leads to trichiasis.” [27b]

5.124 IRIN news, stated in an article on 11 August 2003 that:

“Ethiopia is to build its first ever state of the art cardiac centre to tackle ‘rampant’ heart disease in the country. Dr Belay Abegazm the country’s only paediatric heart surgeon, told IRIN on Monday that the first operations could begin as early as next year. Heart disease is a major killer in Ethiopia and is compounded by massive overcrowding in urban centres. Dr Belay estimated that as many as 200,000 new cases of heart disease occur each year in the country...There are currently less than 10 surgeons who can perform heart operations in the country – and Dr Belay is the only doctor able to operate on children. He said the centre, which is being supported by Addis Ababa University, would also act as a training institute and at least one or two operations could be carried out a day.” [9s]

5.125 UNICEF states in a press release dated 11 May 2004:

“UNICEF has funded the training of trainers (TOT) for more than 100 health professionals at three Ethiopian medical schools so that they can train their peers in the treatment and management of severely malnourished children. Since the beginning of this year, 41 nurses, 12 doctors and 54 medical interns have been provided training based on the national protocol at Addis Ababa, Gondar and Jimma Universities. Therapeutic feeding units (TFUs), which have been set up at the hospitals with UNICEF support including therapeutic feeding products and basic equipment, were used to give the participants practical hands on experience dealing with severe acute malnutrition (SAM) cases.” [28a]

MENTAL HEALTH

5.126 The World Health Organisation (WHO) reports that:

“Mental Health is one of the most disadvantaged health programs in Ethiopia, both in terms of facilities and trained manpower. The average prevalence of mental disorders in Ethiopia is 15% for adults and 11% for children. The psychiatrist-to-population ratio for Ethiopia is 1:6 million. The only institutions that provide psychiatric services by specialist doctors are found in Addis Ababa; actually inpatient service is provided only at two hospitals. During the last decade, more than 150 psychiatrist nurses have been trained through WHO assistance.” [26c] WHO also noted in its Country Cooperation Strategy for Ethiopia, 2002–2005 that: “Mental illness is one of the health issues that has not received the attention it deserves. Health workers do recognize that mental illness is on the increase and the government and partners recently commissioned an assessment of the situation. The result, which is believed to serve as background information for the formulation of strategies for addressing mental health, is being awaited.” [26g]

5.127 The Aemiro Tiena Kibkabe Mahber Ethiopia (Mental Health Society–Ethiopia) website indicates that it is “a non-religious, non-government and non-profit Society which aims to provide community-based support services to persons with mental illness, in particular to those people affected with schizophrenia and bipolar [sic] disorder. ATKME got its certification from the Ministry of Justice of the Federal Republic of Ethiopia in August of 2003.” [29a]

5.128 The Mental Health Society – Ethiopia, further noted that:

“As it is true in most parts of the developing world, mental health services in Ethiopia are insufficient in both quantity and quality. Based on the beliefs that mental illnesses are afflictions caused by evil supernatural forces, most Ethiopians use traditional methods of dealing with mental illnesses and those who look for modern treatment usually do so after trying several traditional and religious means. Wearing amulets, drinking and/or sprinkling holy water, chewing herbs/khat, drinking or painting the body with the herb juice, performing rituals, and exorcism by prayer or fumigation are the most commonly used traditional methods of treatment (Alem et al. 1995). After trying available local means, many families keep the patients at home under restraint, until they are no longer aggressive or violent. Once disruptive behavior is over, they are released from chains and many such sufferers become vagrant (Alem 1997).” [29a]

HIV/AIDS

5.129 UNICEF the United Nations Children’s Fund, noted that:

“Ethiopia is one of the countries in the world most severely-affected by HIV/AIDS: 7.3 per cent of the adult population is infected and an estimated 2.2 million people are living with HIV/AIDS, including 200,000 children. This has reduced family and community cohesion, disrupting the traditional patterns of protection and care and placing children and women at heightened risk of trauma and exploitation. The drought may accelerate the transmission of HIV/AIDS given the population movements, potential for increased sexual violence and sex work as a survival strategy.” [29b]

- 5.130 The United States Agency for International Development (USAID) published a Report in February 2005 titled 'The Human Financial Resource Requirements for Scaling up HIV/AIDS Services in Ethiopia'. The Report noted:

"Ethiopia is currently one of the countries most seriously affected by HIV/AIDS....It ranks sixth in the world in number of HIV infections (USAID 2003). The current national adult (15–49) HIV-prevalence estimate from sentinel surveillance sites is 4.4 percent. Approximately 1.5 million people living with HIV/AIDS, 120,000 of whom are children (UNAIDS 2004). UNAIDS also estimates 120,000 adult and child deaths from AIDS in Ethiopia in 2003. Estimates from the same year indicate that the number of children orphaned by AIDS to total as high as 720,000 (UNAIDS 2004)....Heterosexual sexual transmission is responsible for most infections in Ethiopia, with the highest infection rates concentrated in females aged 15–24 years in urban areas (15 percent prevalence 2001/2002) (UNAIDS 2003). The 2002 Behavioral Surveillance Survey by Mitike, Lemma, Berhane, et al. indicates that, while knowledge of sexual transmission is widespread (98 percent), use of safe practices is low (<50 percent condom use with non-regular partner). In addition, knowledge of HIV/AIDS, including its transmission and prevention, is thought to be lower among women than men (Garbus 2003). Mother-to-child transmission contributes the second highest number of new HIV infections each year – almost 20 percent of estimated cases – a problem that may be fueled by high fertility and a tradition of breastfeeding." [30a] (p3)

- 5.131 The Report further added:

"Recent data suggests that Ethiopia has a critical shortage of human resources to deliver even basic health services. In 1999, the physician to population ratio in Ethiopia was 1:48,000, the lowest in the world. The current (2003) ratio of 1:34,000 is still more than five times lower than the sub-Saharan Africa average, and that of nurses (1:4,900) is more than four times lower (WHO 2004). It is vital to point out that, as HIV/AIDS services are expanded and resources shifted towards meeting HIV/AIDS targets, this may in fact have negative spin-off effects on other essential programs such as malaria, immunization, and maternal and child health." (USAID), [30a] (p4)

- 5.132 The World Health Organisation reported that:

"Available evidence suggests that the HIV/AIDS epidemic in Ethiopia started in the early 1980's. The first two positive samples were retrospectively detected from samples collected in 1984 for other research. The first two AIDS cases were officially reported from Addis Ababa in 1986. Based on recent sentinel surveillance data, the national adult prevalence rate is estimated at 6.6%. Rural prevalence is much lower than urban prevalence (3.7% and 13.7%, respectively). The number of reported AIDS cases stands at 130,000 as of September 2003. In the lower age groups (15–29) more females than males are affected. There are an estimated 1.2 million AIDS orphans in the country." [26d]

- 5.133 The World Health Organisation also noted that:

"HIV transmission in Ethiopia occurs mainly through heterosexual contact. Some transmission also occurs from mother to child and through transfusion of infected blood and unsafe medical practices. With 45% of Ethiopia's population

under 15 years of age, young people are especially vulnerable. Other vulnerable population groups include female sex workers, unemployed people, long-distance truck drivers, migrant workers and internally displaced populations.” [26e]

5.134 Médecins Sans Frontières reported on 27 January 2004:

“ARV drugs have proven successful in slowing down the effects of AIDS, sometimes to the extent of virtually taking away the effects of the disease. The patient can regain a more normal life; continue to work and function in society and the family. The launch of the ARV program was marked by a dinner Saturday night in Humera, the extreme north-west corner of Ethiopia, during which Kindu, the first patient who started ARV treatment on 9 January 2004, spoke about how critically ill he had been only 17 days ago, bedridden in the Humera hospital and how he had regained his appetite after starting ARV....In addition to the new ARV-treatment program, MSF supports Humera hospital with voluntary counseling and testing services, management of Sexually Transmitted Infections (STIs), treatment of opportunistic infections for AIDS patients, a food support program for AIDS patients that visit the hospital, a program of preventive HIV/AIDS sensitization and outreach, and a program to treat kala azar. MSF hopes to open additional ARV-treatment programs in Ethiopia as soon as possible.” [25e]

5.135 The World Health Organization (WHO) reported on 15 July 2005:

“Today Dr Olusegun A. Babaniyi, representative of the World Health Organization to Ethiopia laid the foundation stone for the building of a youth health and recreation center at the town of Bishoftu about 40 km south east of Addis Ababa in the Oromiya Region of Ethiopia....The Center is being built with an initial outlay of birr 140,000 from the WHO/OPEC Fund Initiative. When it is completed the centre will provide HIV/AIDS education, counselling and testing (VCT) services to the youth in Bishoftu town. Reproductive health services such as control and prevention of sexually transmitted infections (STIs) condom distribution and others will also be included. The center will also organize various youth clubs such as anti-AIDS club, drama and music troupe, indoor and out door recreational activities, etc.” [26f]

5.136 IRIN news reported on 4 August 2003 that: “Although the cost of the [ARV] drugs has dropped dramatically in recent years – in Ethiopia the monthly cost is around US \$40 per person – they are still out of the reach of most. The Government is looking at two ways of ensuring greater supply and reducing the cost – by financial support from the Global Fund and through generic drugs.” [9f]

THE DISABLED

5.137 The Social Security Online website's 2005 profile of Ethiopia notes that the disability pension is: “equal to 30% of the average monthly basic salary during the last 3 years, plus 1.125% (civilian) or 1.5% (military) of the average monthly basic salary for each year of service beyond 10 years. The maximum monthly pension is 70% of the insured's average basic salary....Benefit adjustment: The Council of Ministers may adjust pensions every 5 years.” [31]

5.138 The US Department of State's Human Rights Report 2005 noted that:

“While the law mandates equal rights for persons with disabilities, the government had no established mechanisms to enforce these rights. Persons with minor disabilities sometimes complained of job discrimination. The government did not mandate access to buildings or provide services for persons with disabilities. Although the law provides for rehabilitation and assistance to persons with physical and mental disabilities, the government devoted few resources to these purposes.” [3a] (p19)

- 5.139 The same Report noted that: “There were approximately six million persons with disabilities, according to local NGOs....The Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs was responsible for protecting the rights of the disabled.” [3a] (p19)

- 5.140 The US Department of State’s Human Rights Report 2003 noted that:

“The Amhara Development Association provided vocational training to war veterans with disabilities in Bahir Dar. The Tigray Development Association operated a center in Mekelle that provided prostheses and seed money for business development, training, and counseling for persons with disabilities. The international NGO Landmine Survivors provided a number of services to victims of landmine explosions, including counseling and referrals to rehabilitation services”. [3C] (p23)

EDUCATION

- 5.141 The Africa South of the Sahara 2005 Report stated that:

“Education in Ethiopia is available free of charge, and, after a rapid growth in number of schools, it became compulsory between the ages of seven and 13 years. Since 1976 most primary and secondary schools have been controlled by local peasant associations and urban dwellers’ associations. Primary education begins at seven years of age and lasts for eight years. Secondary education, beginning at 15 years of age lasts for a further four years, comprising two cycles of two years, the second of which provides preparatory education for entry to the tertiary level. In 2000/01 total enrolment at primary schools included 47% of children in the appropriate age-group (53% of boys; 41% of girls); according to UNESCO estimates, enrolment at secondary schools included 13% (15% of boys; 10% of girls) of children in the relevant age group.” [1a] (p450)

- 5.142 The Report also noted that: “There are 21 institutions of higher education in Ethiopia, with a total of 67,682 enrolled students in 1999/2000. There is a considerable shortage of qualified teachers, which is particularly acute in secondary schools, which rely heavily on expatriate staff. The 1999/2000 budget allocated an estimated 11.3% (2,304m. birr) of total expenditure to education.” [1a] (p450)

- 5.143 The US State Department’s Human Rights Report 2005 noted that:

“Education is compulsory and universal through grade six, though approximately 20 percent of school-age children do not attend school. By law, primary education is tuition-free. There were not enough schools to accommodate the country’s youth, particularly in rural areas, and the cost of uniforms and school supplies was prohibitive for many families. Approximately 74 percent of male primary school-age children and 59 percent of female

primary school-age children attended school; in Addis Ababa girls' attendance was slightly higher. Government reports showed that 29 percent of the children who attended school left the system before they reached the second grade, and only 22 percent of children who began first grade completed eighth grade.”
[3a] (p17)

[Return to contents](#)

[Go to list of Sources](#)

6. Human rights

6.A HUMAN RIGHTS: ISSUES

GENERAL

- 6.01 Articles 14 to 28 of the 1994 Constitution give prominence to, and guarantee respect for, human rights. [4] (p2) However the US State Department's Human Rights Report 2005 noted that: "After the May [2005] elections, serious human rights abuses occurred, when the opposition parties refused to accept the announced results, and in November after the Coalition for Unity and Democracy (CUD) called for civil disobedience, which resulted in widespread riots and excessive use of force by the police and military. Although there were some improvements, the government's human rights record remained poor and worsened in some areas." [3a] (p1)
- 6.02 The Report also noted that: "During the year paramilitary groups committed unlawful killings, including political killings. The Ethiopian Human Rights Council (EHRCO) reported that from January to March armed militia killed several members of the opposition All-Ethiopia Unity Party/Coalition for Unity and Democracy (AEUP/CUD) in the Amhara Region." [3a] (p1)
- 6.03 The Report continued: "A number of domestic and international human rights groups generally operated with limited government restriction, investigating and publishing their findings on human rights cases. The government generally was distrustful and wary of domestic human rights groups and some international observers. After the November [2005] protests the government restricted human rights groups from visiting or investigating detention camps." [3a] (p15)
- 6.04 The Human Rights Watch Report dated 2006 stated:
- "Ethiopia has only one large, nationwide human rights organization, the Ethiopian Human Rights Council (EHRCO). Government officials routinely accuse the organization of working to advance an anti-government political agenda and its staff and ordinary members are often subjected to harassment and intimidation by local officials and members of the security forces. In June 2005, three EHRCO investigators were arrested and taken to military detention camps because of their efforts to document the human toll of the government's post-election crackdown. All three were subsequently released but were threatened with future criminal proceedings. Another human rights organization, the Human Rights League, reopened its offices in March 2005 after winning a protracted court battle against government efforts to ban its operations. It remains to be seen whether the organization will be allowed to operate free of government interference." [11a]
- 6.05 The Report also stated that: "The aftermath of Ethiopia's landmark May 2005 parliamentary elections has laid bare the deeply entrenched patterns of political repression, human rights abuse and impunity that characterize the day-to-day reality of governance in much of the country." [11a]
- 6.06 The Report goes on to say:

“In rural areas in Oromia, local officials often threaten to withhold vital agricultural inputs such as fertilizer from impoverished farmers if they speak out against them or their policies. In other cases, local officials selectively enforce harsh penalties for the non-repayment of debts to justify the imprisonment of their critics or the seizure of their property. In the months prior to the May 2005 elections, regional officials in Oromia created new quasi-governmental structures used to subject the rural population to intense levels of surveillance and to impose restrictions on farmers’ freedoms of movement, association and speech.” [11a]

- 6.07 The Report further adds: “The Ethiopian government has taken no meaningful action to address widespread atrocities committed by Ethiopian military forces in the remote southwestern region of Gambella. Federal authorities have refused even to investigate human rights abuses so severe that they may rise to the level of crimes against humanity and continue to allow the authors of those crimes the enjoyment of near-total impunity.” [11a]
- 6.08 Amnesty International, in its 2005 Report, noted that: “Widespread arbitrary detentions, torture and excessive use of force by police and soldiers were reported....Several thousand people remained in long-term detention without charge or trial; most were accused of supporting armed opposition groups. Prison conditions were harsh and some prisoners ‘disappeared’.” [10a]

FREEDOM OF SPEECH AND THE MEDIA

OVERVIEW OF THE ETHIOPIAN MEDIA

- 6.09 The Constitution and the 1992 Press Law provides for freedom of speech and of the press. [4] (p10) However, the US State Department of State’s Human Rights Report 2005 noted that: “While the law provides for freedom of speech and press, the government restricted these rights in practice. The government continued to harass and prosecute journalists, publishers, and editors for publishing allegedly fabricated information and for other violations of the press law. The government controlled all broadcast media. Private and government journalists routinely practiced self-censorship....Prior to the May 15 national elections, government-controlled media provided unprecedented access to opposition views, but after the election they generally reflected only the views of the government and the ruling EPRDF coalition. Relations between the private press and the government were often strained.” [3a] (p8)
- 6.10 The Report goes on to state that: “Foreign journalists continued to operate freely and often wrote articles critical of government policies. Government officials often granted foreign journalists or local stringers greater access to government than local independent journalists received. However, prior to the May 15 national elections, some international correspondents reported strong government pressure to self-censor their coverage; they refused to do so, but suffered no immediate consequences.” [3a] (p8)

[Return to contents](#)

[Go to list of Sources](#)

NEWSPAPERS AND JOURNALS

6.11 Human Rights Watch World Report 2006 for Ethiopia stated:

"Many independent journalists, editors and publishers continue to endure harassment and intimidation, and criminal penalties for a range of speech-related penalties remain on the books. In June 2005, the Ministry of Information revoked the licenses of five Ethiopian journalists working for the Voice of America and Radio Deutsche-Welle because it disapproved of their coverage of the elections and the post-election controversy." [11a]

6.12 IRIN News reported on 12 July 2005:

"Ethiopia has rejected accusations of cracking down on independent media after the disputed elections, insisting that it is upholding the law of the land. Authorities also criticized international media watchdogs, saying they were ill-informed about what was actually taking place in Ethiopia. 'There is no crackdown', government spokesman, Zemedkun Teckle, said on Tuesday. 'We are ensuring that the media abide by the rules and regulations of the land....The comments were made in response to criticism by the New York-based Committee to Protect Journalists (CPJ), which accused the government of trying to stifle the press. 'CPJ is greatly alarmed by the government's use of repressive laws to harass and intimidate journalists trying to do their jobs,' said Ann Cooper, executive director of the organization. 'Ethiopian authorities must publicly recognise the rights of journalists to inform the public and report critically without fear of reprisal'." [9u]

6.13 The Committee to Protect Journalists (CPJ) 2005 reported in a News Alert dated 4 November 2005 that the:

"Ethiopian authorities had jailed at least two journalists and increased censorship of media coverage of anti-government protests....Local sources told the Committee to Protect Journalists that police arrested two editors and a reporter from the independent Amharic-language weekly *Hadar*....Many other journalists went into hiding. Much of the independent press stopped publishing on orders from the police, according to local sources....The crackdown followed government threats to arrest leaders of the Ethiopian Free Press Journalists' Association (EFJA) and journalists it accused of being mouthpieces for the opposition Coalition for Unity and Democracy party....Police prevented the government-owned printing press from printing private newspapers, most of which failed to appear on newsstands, according to local sources. Police ordered the private weekly *Ethiop* to stop printing and arrested the newspaper's technical assistant Zerihune Tsegaye. He was later released without charge." [32a]

6.14 A further News Alert released by CPJ on 21 December 2005 reported that:

"Twenty one Ethiopian journalists and the president of the EFJA were charged with involvement in an alleged attempt to overthrow the government, according to CPJ sources. Among those charged (in absentia) were five journalists of Ethiopian descent who work in Washington, D.C., for the Voice of America's Amharic-language service....Fourteen of the journalists charged are in custody; they were detained in a vast crackdown launched after antigovernment protests in early November. Most of the journalists charged work for private, Amharic-

language weekly newspapers. In its charge sheet, the government accused freelance journalist Iskinder Nega of being a leader of the opposition CUD party. Precise details about other charges were not immediately available.” [32b]

6.15 The US Department of State’s 2005 Report noted:

“On March 3, the federal high court lifted a 17-month ban on the Ethiopian Free Press Journalists Association (EFPJA) and its leadership, by upholding a December 2004 decision by the court of first instance that the EFPJA was a legally recognized association, and rejecting the appeal of the Ministry of Justice. [3a] (p10) An IRIN article on 7 March 2005 reported the president of the association, Kifle Mulat, as saying....‘This is a new chapter for Ethiopian journalists and this brings us to the forefront of the fight for freedom of expression in this country’. IRIN reported that the EFPJA was set up in 1993 and granted a government licence in 2002. It aims are to defend the rights of the independent press in Ethiopia. [9v] According to the US Department of State report of 2005, at the end of 2005 the organization was inactive as its president, journalist Kifle Mulat, was among journalists sought for arrest by the government. Mulat avoided detention, however, by not returning to the country at the time of the November unrest. A rival association with the same name as the EFPJA, sponsored by the government, was inactive during the year and its operating status was unknown.” [3a] (p10)

6.16 The Committee to Protect Journalists (CPJ) had observed in its 2004 Report that:

“Ethiopia’s private print media are mostly concentrated in the capital, Addis Ababa, where a number of local- and English-language publications present a variety of viewpoints. Under Press Proclamation No. 34 of 1992, criminal charges can be brought against journalists for such offenses as defamation, incitement to violence, and the publication of false news. Court cases can drag on for years, and journalists are regularly jailed for not being able to pay bail or for missing court hearings. Many journalists have multiple charges pending against them.” [32c]

6.17 The BBC Country Profile of Ethiopia updated in November 2005, states that: “The number of privately-owned newspapers has grown; some are available online. The Walta website also hosts a few pro-government English-language newspapers.” [7i]

6.18 According to the BBC Ethiopia Country Profile (2005), the Ethiopian Press consists of the following:

Addis Zemen – state-owned daily
Ethiopian Herald – State-owned English-language daily
Menelik – private, weekly
Addis Admas – Private, weekly
Seifenebelbal – private, weekly
Toby – private, weekly
Wonchif – private, weekly
Tomar – private, weekly
The Reporter – private, English-language web pages
The Sun – private, English-language weekly
Addis Tribune – privately-owned English-language weekly

Capital – English-language, business weekly [7i]

6.19 The US State Department Report for 2005 stated:

“At year's end the draft press law proposed in 2003 by the Ministry of Information had not been formally presented to parliament. However, on March 28, parliament included some of the most punitive provisions of the draft press law in the new penal code, which took effect in May. The articles include general provisions applicable to all offenses, and specific ones applicable to particular crimes. Among them are articles taken verbatim from the draft press law referring to liability for offenses committed by the press.” [3a] (p10)

6.20 The US Department of State's Report 2005 noted that:

“The Ministry of Information required that newspapers have a bank balance of \$1,150 (10 thousand birr) when annually registering for a publishing license. This sum effectively precluded some smaller publications from registering. Authorities also required permanent residency for publishers to establish and operate a newspaper. The government did not require residency for other business owners, and some independent journalists maintained that the government used the residency requirement as a form of intimidation. The press law requires all publishers to provide free copies of their publications to the Ministry of Information on the day of publication.” [3a] (p9-10)

6.21 The Report continued:

“The majority of private newspapers as well as government newspapers printed their publications on government-owned presses. Following the unrest in November, presses frequently refused to print some papers, citing Ministry of Justice statements indicating that presses would be held responsible for content they printed. Police had the authority to shut down any printing press without a court order, but during the year did not exercise that power.” [3a] (p10)

TELEVISION AND RADIO

6.22 The US Department of State's Report 2005 noted that:

“Although the law allows for private radio stations, and the government said that it would license new stations, the government continued to control all radio and television broadcast media. The government operated the sole television station and tightly controlled news broadcasts. The broadcasting law prohibits political and religious organizations from owning broadcast stations. The law also prohibits foreign ownership....State-run Radio Ethiopia sold broadcasting time to private groups and individuals who wanted to buy spots for programs and commercials. On April 1, the Southern Nations, Nationalities, and Peoples Region launched daily one-hour Amharic-language broadcasts on its regional FM radio station, Radio Voice of the South. On September 5, the Addis Ababa city administration started test transmissions for a daily five-hour FM broadcast.” [3a] (p8)

6.23 The Report continued:

“There were some restrictions on access to international news broadcasts. Broadcasts of BBC and Deutsche Welle were listened to throughout the

country....At year's end, Voice of America broadcast signals remained subject to intentional jamming. The government permitted ownership of private satellite receiving dishes; however, high costs and the limited capacity of the sole telecommunications entity, the Ethiopian Telecommunications Corporation, effectively restricted access to this technology." [3a] (p9)

- 6.24 According to the BBC Country Profile (updated on 2 November 2005) the known radio stations in Ethiopia are:

Radio Ethiopia – state-owned, operates National Service and External Service

Voice of Tigray Revolution – Tigray Regional State government radio

Radio Fana – founded in 1994 by ruling party [7i]

Television:

Ethiopian Television (ETV) – state-owned [7i]

News agencies:

Walta Information Centre (WIC) – privately-owned, pro-government

Ethiopian News Agency (ENA) – state-owned [7i]

THE INTERNET

- 6.25 CPJ released another News Alert on 30 January 2006 to report about an Internet reporter being held without charge, stating that:

"Ethiopian security forces have detained a correspondent for the U.S.-based Web site Ethiopian Review, its publisher Elias Kifle said today. Journalist Frezer Negash has been held without charge in Addis Ababa since Friday, Kifle told the Committee to Protect Journalists....Kifle and two other CPJ sources said that Ethiopian officials had recently threatened Negash over her work for the Web site, which is extremely critical of the government." [32d]

- 6.26 The US Department of State's 2005 Report noted that: "The government did not restrict Internet access....Opposition Web sites were also accessible by the Internet....In the wake of the June 8 disturbances, however, the state telecommunications monopoly disabled mobile-phone text messaging, a block that remained largely in place at year's end, claiming that the CUD used text messaging to call for antigovernment actions." [3a] (pp9-10)

- 6.27 The BBC reported in an article dated 6 April 2005 that:

"Ethiopia may be one of the world's poorest nations but it plans to become information-rich with a massive investment in internet access. Prime Minister Meles Zenawi believes information technology has the power to counteract poverty. He is planning to provide universal net connectivity for the country over the next few years. The government is working with US technology firm Cisco to make this a reality....It will invest around \$40m (£21m) in developing its internet service, which will involve laying 2,500km of fibre optic cables....Currently there

are around 30,000 internet lines serving a population of 71 million. Within six months that figure will be expanded to 500,000 lines.” [7n]

FREEDOM OF RELIGION

OVERVIEW

- 6.28 The Constitution provides for freedom of religion, including the right of conversion. [4] (p9) The US Department of State's International Religious Freedom Report 2005 noted that:

“The Government generally respected this right in practice; however, on occasion local authorities infringed on this right. There was little change in the status of respect for religious freedom during the period covered by this report. Some Protestant and Muslim groups continued to complain that local officials discriminate against them when seeking land for churches, mosques, and cemeteries, but there were reports of good relations between the Ministry of Education and the Ethiopian Islamic Affairs Supreme Council (EIASC) regarding the use of headscarves. The generally amicable relationship among religions in society contributed to religious freedom. In general, there was a decrease in interreligious conflict and clashes; however, government criticism of some Muslim elements increased. There has been some reported tension between traditionalist Muslims and followers of the Wahhabi sect, an interpretation of Islam that reportedly receives support from Saudi Arabia.” [3f] (p1)

- 6.29 The Report further noted that: “The Constitution requires the separation of state and religion and prohibits a state religion, and the Government respects these rights in practice.” [3f] (p2)

- 6.30 Moreover the Report observed that:

“An estimated 40 to 45 percent of the population belongs to the Ethiopian Orthodox Church (EOC); however, the EOC claims 50 percent of the country's total population, or more than 31 million adherents, and 110,450 churches. The EOC is predominant in the northern regions of Tigray and Amhara. Approximately 45 percent of the population is Sunni Muslim, although many Muslims claim that the actual percentage is higher. Addis Ababa, the capital, has approximately one million Muslims, according to the Supreme Islamic Council. Islam is most prevalent in the eastern Somali and Afar regions, as well as in all the major parts of Oromia in the south. Christian evangelical and Pentecostal groups continue to be the fastest growing faiths and are believed to constitute more than 10 percent of the population. According to the Evangelical Church Fellowship, there are 11.5 million Protestants, although this figure may be high. Established Protestant churches such as Mekane Yesus (with 4.2 million members—reporting an increase of 200,000 members each year) and the Kale Hiwot followers (with about 4.6 million members) are strongest in the Southern Nations, Nationalities, and People's Regional State (SNNPR), western and central Oromia, and in urban areas. In Gambella in the west, where ethnic clashes broke out in 2003, Mekane Yesus followers represent 60 percent of the population, according to the President of the Ethiopian Evangelical Church of Mekane Yesus. The Evangelical Church Fellowship claims 22 denominations under their religious umbrella and that the number of adherents increased by 200,000 during the period covered by this report.” [3f] (p1)

6.31 The Report also noted that: "The Government requires that religious groups be registered. Religious institutions, as with nongovernmental organizations (NGOs), are registered with the Ministry of Justice and must renew their registration every 3 years." [3f] (p2) The Report then went on to state that: "The EOC has never registered and has never faced ramifications for not registering. Similarly, the Supreme Islamic Council, after registering 8 years ago, has never re-registered since it protested this requirement to the Prime Minister's Office. Protests from other religious groups over these exceptions have not resulted in equal treatment from the Government." [3f] (p2)

6.32 The same Report stated that:

"The Government officially recognizes both Christian and Muslim holy days and continues to mandate a 2 hour lunch break on Fridays to allow Muslims to go to a mosque to pray. Recognized Christian holy days include Christmas, Epiphany, Good Friday, and Easter. Muslim holy days recognized are Eid al-Adha (Arefa), the Prophet Mohammed's birthday, and Eid al-Fitr (Ramadan). The Government also agreed to a request from Muslim students at Addis Ababa Commercial College to delay the start of afternoon classes until 1:30 p.m. to permit them to perform afternoon prayers at a nearby mosque." [3f] (pp2-3)

6.33 The Report goes on to note that:

"In most sections of the country Orthodox Christians and Muslims participate in each other's religious observances, and there is tolerance for intermarriage and conversion in certain areas, most notably in Welo, in the Amhara region, as well as in urban areas throughout the country....In Addis Ababa, the capital, persons of different faiths often live side-by-side. Most urban areas reflect a mixture of all religious denominations. The Roman Catholic Church and evangelical Protestant denominations, particularly the Mekane Yesus Church and Kale Hiwot Churches, provided social services such as health care and education to non-members as well as to members." [3f] (p6)

6.34 According to the US 2004 Report on Religious Freedom:

"The Government has interpreted the constitutional provision for separation of religion and state to mean that religious instruction is not permitted in schools, whether they are public or private. Schools owned and operated by Catholic, Orthodox, evangelical, and Muslim groups are not allowed to teach religion as a course of study. Most private schools teach morals courses as part of school curricula, and the Government Education Bureau in Addis Ababa has complained that such courses are not free of religious influence. Churches are permitted to have Sunday schools, the Koran is taught at mosques, and public schools permit the formation of clubs, including those of a religious nature." [3g] (p3)

6.35 Furthermore the Report noted that:

"The generally amicable relationship among religions in society contributed to religious freedom; however, open conflict among religious groups increased during the period covered by this report [1 July 2003, to 30 June 2004]. These occurred most noticeably between Ethiopian Orthodox Christians and evangelical Protestants, and between Ethiopian Orthodox Christians and

Muslims. In addition there continued to be pockets of interreligious tension and criticism among some religious groups.” [3g] (p5)

ETHIOPIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH

- 6.36 The US Department of State’s 2005 Report on Human Rights noted that: “The Ethiopian Orthodox Church (EOC) and Islam are the dominant religions; nearly 90 percent of the population adhered to one or the other faith.” [3a] (p12)
- 6.37 Amnesty International reported on 3 February 2006 that:
- “Forty-two people have been arrested during Ethiopian Orthodox Church celebrations in the capital, Addis Ababa. They are reportedly being held incommunicado and are at risk of torture or ill-treatment....On 19 January, thousands of members of the Ethiopian Orthodox Church, the principal faith in Ethiopia, were singing and processing through central Addis Ababa as part of the Timket (Epiphany) church festival. At one point when police halted the procession, some of those in the procession began shouting for the release of opposition party leaders who have been charged with treason and other offences. Police reportedly opened fire with live ammunition on people suspected to be demonstrating support for the Coalition for Unity and Democracy (CUD) party.” [10K]
- 6.38 IRIN news reported on 23 January 2003 that there were reports of clashes between police and demonstrators at Addis Ababa’s Lideta Mariam Orthodox Church on 26 December 2002. “These ashes were sparked by a dispute between the Church of Lideta Mariam and the Addis Ababa Diocese. The community has been resisting attempts by the office of the Patriarch to appoint a church administrator.” [9w]
- 6.39 The report added: “The Ethiopian Human Rights Council (EHRCO) said that the demonstrators were forced to plunge fully clothed into a barrel of cold water....Deacons from the church who were arrested had their heads shaved and were forced to sleep in the open. Others were forced to sleep on gravel and run barefoot on stone grounds or walk along a road on their knees.” [9w]
- 6.40 Furthermore the report noted that:
- “The dispute between Lideta Mariam Church community and the Patriarch’s office has been going on for more than two years, despite the secular court of the church ordering the Lideta community to accept the appointee.” The report further mentions that: “The EHRCO called on both the Ethiopian Patriarch Abune Paulos – who heads the 25 million strong Ethiopian Orthodox Church – and the federal authorities to try to resolve the issue.” [9w]

PROTESTANTS

- 6.41 US Department of State, in its 2005 Report on Religious Freedom noted that:
- “Religious groups are not accorded duty-free status. Religious groups are given the free use of government land for churches, schools, hospitals, and cemeteries; however, schools and hospitals, regardless of how long they have been in operation, are subject to government closure and land forfeiture at any time. Religious groups, like private individuals or businesses, must apply to

regional and local governments for land allocation...Minority religious groups have complained of discrimination in the allocation of government land for religious sites. Protestant groups occasionally complain that local officials discriminate against them when seeking land for churches and cemeteries.” [3f] (pp2-4)

ISLAM

- 6.42 The US Department of State’s 2005 Report on Religious Freedom noted that: “Approximately 45 percent of the population is Muslim, although many Muslims claim that the actual percentage is higher. Addis Ababa has 1 million Muslims, according to the Supreme Islamic Council. Islam is most prevalent in the Somali and Afar regions, as well as in all the major parts of Oromia in the south.” [3f] (p1)

- 6.43 The same Report noted that:

“While some Muslim leaders complained in the past that public school authorities sometimes interfered with their free practice of Islam because they prohibited the wearing of headscarves in schools, they reported that the Ministry of Education (MOE) has accepted the practice of wearing headscarves in schools not only in Addis Ababa but in regional areas as well. In the Southern Nations, Gondar, and Dire Dawa, there have been scattered problems concerning headscarves in schools but the local Islamic Council has addressed them. An understanding was reached between the MOE and the EIASC that female Muslim students could use headscarves but not the hijab. The EIASC does not support the wearing of hijabs, which it claims is a tradition from the Middle East, but not one required by the Qur’an. The EIASC reportedly maintains a non-restrictive policy of adherence to traditional Islamic dress codes, and it noted an incident in Gondar during the reporting period in which a Muslim nursing student refused to remove her hijab while attending to patients. Local religious leaders were called, and the dispute was resolved to the satisfaction of all parties.” [3f] (p4)

- 6.44 The US Report also noted that:

“Leaders of the EIASC struggled with Wahhabist fundamentalism within their ranks. In January 2004, the Council voted to remove all executive members, and staunch anti-Wahhabists were elected to fill the top leadership positions. A Ministry of Foreign Affairs representative attended the election sessions to demonstrate the Government’s interest in the issue. Additionally, the EIASC expressed concern over the prospect of Wahhabists gaining seats on the Council.” [3f] (p5)

- 6.45 The US Department of State’s 2003 Report on Religious Freedom stated that:

“On April 26 [2003], on the evening of Ethiopian Orthodox Holy Saturday, Ethiopian Orthodox Christians in the District 28, Ward 4 area of Addis Ababa attacked members of the local Islamic council and destroyed a fence surrounding a plot of land upon which a mosque was to be built. Several persons were injured; at least one Islamic council member was hospitalized for several weeks. Fighting continued for three nights but paused during daytime hours. Police initially reported to the scene of the fighting but left after not witnessing any fighting during daytime hours.” [3h] (p4)

6.46 Furthermore the Report added that:

“On January 13 [2003], a confrontation erupted in the Merkato area of Addis Ababa between Muslims and city officials who had come to demolish an illegally constructed mosque. Muslims defied the authorities’ right to tear down the mosque and threw rocks at city and police officials. Police fired into the air, but there were no reported deaths. Police seriously beat at least one man. City officials demolished the mosque and had plans to carry out other demolitions of illegally constructed mosques around the city.” [3h] (p4)

JEHOVAH’S WITNESSES

6.47 The US Department of State’s 2004 Report on Religious Freedom noted that:

“There are more than 7,000 Jehovah’s Witnesses in the country....Members of the Jehovah’s Witnesses have stated in the past that they have leased their own plots of land in the capital, due to lack of suitable properties available from the Government. They have also purchased buildings to use as places of worship throughout Addis Ababa. In a few places in Oromiya plots have been provided free of charge to religious groups to build places of worship.” [3g] (pp1-4)

ETHIOPIAN JEWS

6.48 The BBC, in a report dated 9 January 2004, stated that:

“The Israeli Government are to speed up the moving of the remaining 18,000 Ethiopian Jews to the Middle East. However, the emigration of the Falasha Mura community would not start next week as had earlier been reported, says Israel’s foreign ministry....The Falasha Mura are the last remaining Jewish community in Ethiopia and have long been persecuted for their beliefs.... Ethiopian Foreign Minister Seyoum Mesfin, speaking alongside Mr Shalom, said a mass migration was not needed as Ethiopians were free to travel wherever they wished.” [7o]

6.49 The US Department of State’s 2003 Report on Religious Freedom noted that: “In Addis Ababa and western Gondar, in the Amhara region, there are very small concentrations of Ethiopian Jews (Falashas) and those who claim that their ancestors were forced to convert from Judaism to Ethiopian Orthodoxy (Feles Mora).” [3h] (p1)

6.50 The BBC, in a report dated 16 February 2003, stated that:

“The Israeli Government has announced that it will allow the immigration of another 20,000 Ethiopians of Jewish origin. Most of them are from the Falash Mura community, who were originally Jewish, but were forced to convert to Christianity in the 19th Century. The last mass immigration of Ethiopian Jews was in 1991, when Israel organised a dramatic airlift of 15,000 people who had fled fighting at the end of Ethiopia’s civil war.” [7p]

6.51 The BBC then returned to this story on 20 September 2005 to report that:

“Hundreds of Ethiopian Jews have gone on hunger strike to protest against a delay in their relocation to Israel. Frustrated by an eight-year-long wait, the

community has resolved not to eat until the planned move gets under way. The Falasha Mura, or Beta-Israel as they prefer to be called, are an ancient and isolated group living in the Ethiopian highlands. Although some were forcibly converted to Christianity, they trace their roots to the biblical King Solomon....Members of the Falasha Mura community – many wearing Jewish skullcaps – began the hunger strike in their camp in the capital, Addis Ababa, on Tuesday morning. They are protesting against their ‘long wait’ to return to the Promised Land. Israeli officials say they will all be allowed to travel by the end of 2007.” [7q]

(See also [Ethnic Groups](#) in section 6.B)

FREEDOM OF ASSEMBLY AND ASSOCIATION

6.52 The US State Department’s 2005 Report on Human Rights noted that:

“The law provides for freedom of assembly. Prior to the May 15 [2005] national elections, there were numerous opposition rallies, including one that occurred in Addis Ababa attended by nearly one million persons the weekend prior to the elections. However, immediately following the elections, the government restricted this right in practice....Organizers of large public meetings or demonstrations must notify the government 72 hours in advance and obtain a permit. There were several reports during the year that authorities denied permits sought by opposition political parties. Opposition parties also reported long, unexplained delays by the regional authorities in issuing permits, and last minute revocation of permits.” [3a] (p10)

6.53 It further noted that:

“On May 14, the eve of national elections, the prime minister announced a one-month ban on all demonstrations in Addis Ababa and the surrounding area. In a May 25 press statement, EHRCO condemned the ban as an infringement on the constitutional rights of citizens....Despite the ban (which was extended to August 13), demonstrators protested against the government from June 6 to 8, leading to the killing of at least 42 unarmed demonstrators by security forces in Addis Ababa.... Between November 1 and 7, military and police forces opened fire on rock-throwing demonstrators in Addis Ababa, killing at least 40 individuals. The government claimed that some demonstrators were armed with machetes and hand grenades.” [3a] (p10)

6.54 The Report also stated that: “Although the law provides for freedom of association and the right to engage in unrestricted peaceful political activity, the government in practice limited this right.” [3a] (p11)

6.55 The US State Department’s 2004 Report on Human Rights noted that: The Government required political parties to register with the National Election Board (NEB). Parties that did not participate in two consecutive national elections were subject to deregistration. [3b] (p11)

6.56 Human Rights Watch, in its 2005 Report, stated that: “Excessive force has often been used to quell peaceful demonstrations. Demonstrators are subject to mass arrest and mistreatment.” [11b] (p1)

POLITICAL ACTIVISTS

- 6.57 The International Federation for Human Rights reported on 3 January 2006 that:

“The International Federation for Human Rights (FIDH) is deeply concerned about the charges held against 129 persons including 2 minors, opposition activists, human rights defenders and journalists. Since May 15, 2005 and the Ethiopian parliamentary elections, repression has come down in Ethiopia. In June and November 2005, two waves of repression of the elections protests led to the death of almost 100 people including unarmed protesters, students and children. Thousands of people have been arrested. On December 21, 2005, 131 people were denied bail and formally charged with crimes including, conspiracy and armed uprising, trying to subvert the Constitution, high treason and genocide. They were given until 28 December to enter their pleas. According to the Ethiopian penal code, maximum sentences for these crimes are ranging from 25 years imprisonment [sic] to the death penalty. The names and activities of most of the accused are unknown [sic] but according to the information received they include 2 teenage boys aged 14 and 15, 10 elected parliamentarian and leaders of the Coalition for Unity and Democracy (CUD), at least 12 journalists, 2 anti-poverty activists, Messrs. Daniel Bekele and Netsanet Demessie from Actionaid Ethiopia, an international NGO dedicated to the fight against poverty, and Mr. Mesfin Woldemariam, former president of the Ethiopian Human Rights Council (EHRCO), FIDH member organisation in Ethiopia.” [46a]

- 6.58 The BBC, in an article dated 17 December 2005, reported that:

“Prosecutors in Ethiopia have charged 131 jailed opposition leaders, reporters and aid workers with crimes ranging from treason to ‘genocide’.... The charges relate to last month's protests over disputed May elections that saw at least 46 people killed. Under Ethiopian law, some of the crimes carry the death penalty. Ethiopia's Judge Adil Ahmed told a court in the capital on Friday that the charges against the 131 suspects included treason, genocide, conspiracy and causing an armed uprising. About 55 defendants were present in the packed courtroom, including Berhanu Nega, a top leader of the opposition Coalition for Unity and Democracy (CUD), and human rights activist Mesfin Woldemariam. Several of them have been on hunger strike for nearly three weeks to protest against their incarceration.” [7r] The BBC then further reported on 28 December 2005 that: “More than 80 people facing treason and genocide charges in Ethiopia have complained that they have not been allowed access to their lawyers....The judge ordered their return to prison while he considered bail.” [7s]

- 6.59 The BBC reported in an article on 10 June 2005 that: “Young Ethiopians were in the forefront of this week's protests against alleged electoral fraud – and many of those who were killed and arrested were young students....More than 500 students were arrested on Monday and Tuesday, before 26 people were shot dead on Wednesday. Africa's youth often bear the brunt of political violence, while many of the continent's leaders are in their 60s or 70s.” [7t]

[Return to contents](#)

[Go to list of Sources](#)

6.60 On 3 March 2004, IRIN news reported that:

“Ethiopia’s human rights group on Wednesday condemned the mass arrests and physical abuse in January [2004] of hundreds of university students in the capital, Addis Ababa. The Ethiopian Human Rights Council (EHRCO) said federal officers had rounded up 349 students belonging to the Oromo ethnic group before transporting them to a detention centre....The students – members of the country’s largest ethnic group – had then been forced to march barefoot or on their knees along a gravel path for several hours.” [9p]

6.61 The article further added: “The mass arrests, which took place in late January, were sparked after a disturbance erupted on the university campus. It followed a dispute between the students and the university authorities over a cultural show supported by the Oromo People’s Democratic Organization (OPDO), one of four political parties in the ruling coalition, the Ethiopian People’s Revolutionary Democratic Front.” [9p]

Please refer to Opposition Political Parties in section 5 for further information on CUD.

EMPLOYMENT RIGHTS

6.62 The US Department of State, in its Human Rights Report 2005, stated that:

“There is no national minimum wage. However, some government institutions and public enterprises have set their own minimum wages. For example, public sector employees, the largest group of wage earners, earned a monthly minimum wage of approximately \$23 (200 birr); employees in the banking and insurance sector had a minimum monthly wage of \$27 (230 birr). According to the Office of the Study of Wages and Other Remuneration, these wages did not provide a decent standard of living for a worker and family. Consequently, most families in the wage sector required at least two wage earners to survive, which forced many children to leave school early. Only a small percentage of the population was involved in wage labor employment, which was concentrated largely in urban areas.” [3a] (p21)

6.63 The Report further noted that: “The law provides for a 48-hour legal workweek (with a 24-hour rest period), premium pay for overtime, and prohibition of excessive, compulsory overtime. Although the government did little to enforce the law, in practice most employees in the formal sector worked a 40-hour workweek.” [3a] (p22)

6.64 Additionally the Report noted:

“The government, industry, and unions negotiated to set occupational health and safety standards; however, the inspection department of the Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs did not effectively enforce these standards, due to a lack of resources. A lack of detailed, sector-specific health and safety guidelines also inhibited enforcement. Workers had the right to remove themselves from dangerous situations without jeopardizing their employment; however, most workers feared losing their jobs if they were to do so.” [3a] (p21)

- 6.65 The 1994 Constitution and the 1993 Labour Law give the majority of employees the right to form and join trades unions and bargain collectively. [4] (p17)
- 6.66 The US Department of State, in its 2005 Human Rights Report, stated that:
- “The law provides most workers with the right to form and join unions, and the government allowed this in practice. However, the law specifically excludes teachers and civil servants (including judges, prosecutors, and security service workers) from organizing unions. There was government interference in trade union activities during the year. According to the International Confederation of Free Trade Unions, many trade union leaders have been removed from their posts and/or forced to leave the country, while others have been sent to prison.” [3a] (p20)
- 6.67 The Report added: “The minimum number of workers required to form a union was 20. While all unions had to be registered, the government retained the authority to cancel union registration. There were no reports that the government used this authority during the year. The law stipulates that a trade organization may not act in an overtly political manner. Approximately 300 thousand workers were union members.” [3a] (p20)
- 6.68 The Report also noted that: “Seasonal and part-time agricultural workers did not organize into labor unions. Compensation, benefits, and working conditions of seasonal workers were far below those of unionized permanent plantation employees. [3a] (p20) “Despite government recognition of the independent Ethiopian Teachers Association (ETA), authorities required all public school teachers to subsidize a separate government-created and controlled teacher's union (also called ETA) through mandatory withholding of \$0.23 (2 birr) from their monthly salaries.” [3a] (p20)
- 6.69 The US Department of State, in its Human Rights Report 2003, stated that:
- “There was no requirement that unions belong to the Confederation of Ethiopian Trade Unions (CETU), which included all nine federations organized by industrial and service sectors rather than by region. Despite its claims to the contrary, CETU leadership was aligned with the ruling party and did not fight vigorously for workers' rights. Findings of widespread corruption in 2002 within CETU's leadership had not resulted in any disciplinary actions by year's end [2003]. In January, four members of CETU's nine-member executive committee, who criticized the majority five-member block's decisions were forced from office and replaced by four members hand-picked by the Government.” [3c] (p25)
- 6.70 The same Report stated that:
- “The law prohibits anti-union discrimination by employers against union members and organizers; however, unions reported that union activists frequently were fired. Unlawful dismissal suits often took years to resolve because of case backlogs in the labor courts. According to labor leaders, a number of court cases in which workers were terminated for union activities were pending after 4 or 5 years. There were grievance procedures for hearings on allegations of discrimination brought by individuals or unions. Employers

found guilty of anti-union discrimination were required to reinstate workers fired for union activities.” [3c] (p25)

PEOPLE TRAFFICKING

6.71 The US State Department’s 2005 Report on Human Rights noted that:

“Ethiopia was a source country for men, women, and children trafficked for forced labor and sexual exploitation. Young Ethiopian women were trafficked to Djibouti and the Middle East, particularly Lebanon, the United Arab Emirates, Saudi Arabia, and Bahrain for involuntary domestic labor. A small percentage were trafficked for sexual exploitation to Europe via Lebanon. Small numbers of men were trafficked to Saudi Arabia and the Gulf states for exploitation as low-skilled laborers. Both children and adults were trafficked internally from rural to urban areas for domestic labor and, to a lesser extent, for commercial sexual exploitation and forced labor, such as street vending. NGOs estimated that international trafficking annually involved between 20 and 25 thousand victims.” [3a] (p18)

6.72 The Report continued:

“The government does not fully comply with the minimum standards for the elimination of trafficking; however, it is making significant efforts to do so. The law provides penalties of up to 20 years imprisonment and a fine of \$1,150 (10 thousand birr) for trafficking of women and children. Despite arrests of suspected traffickers in 2004, there were no successful prosecutions of traffickers by year’s end. The Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs, in concert with local police, monitored trafficking in persons, while the Ministry of Justice enforced governmental law. The government assisted with international trafficking investigations....Training programs for police officers on the criminal aspects of trafficking continued during the year. These institutions had limited resources and jurisdiction to protect or intervene in cases of prosecution of offending employers.” [3a] (p18)

6.73 The Report also stated: “There were occasional reports that children were trafficked out of the country, including unconfirmed reports that children from the south were transported into Kenya by traffickers operating adoption rings, and adopted as other nationalities.” [3a] (p18)

6.74 IRIN news reported on 20 October 2005 that the International Organisation for Migration (IOM) had announced the launch of a campaign against child trafficking, stating:

“Dubbed ‘Ethiopia’s Campaign for Vulnerable Children’, the campaign encourages candidates running in local elections scheduled for early 2006 to push the issue onto the agenda....A legal expert with the IOM’s counter trafficking unit in Addis Ababa, Alem Brook, said internal trafficking of children in Ethiopia was one of the highest in the world....The IOM warned that thousands of Ethiopian women were also trafficked abroad. At least 10,000 have been sent to the Gulf States to work as prostitutes, the agency said. ‘There are increasing numbers of young women being recruited from here for sexual purposes,’ Alem said. Traffickers in Ethiopia expect to earn around 7,000 birr (around \$800) for each victim they send overseas, she added. However, if

caught, they are liable to 20 years imprisonment but few are ever prosecuted.” [9ai]

6.75 IRIN news reported in an article on 20 October 2005 that:

“Ethiopian children are being sold for as little as US \$1.20 to work as domestic workers or prostitutes, the International Organization for Migration (IOM) said. Up to 20,000 children, some 10 years old, are sold each year by their parents and trafficked by unscrupulous brokers to work in cities across Ethiopia, the IOM added.... Around two-thirds of the children are trafficked by brokers who take a percentage of the child's earnings, while one-third are trafficked by friends and family.” [9y]

6.76 The US State Department's 2005 Report on Human Rights also noted that:

“The government provided little assistance to trafficked victims who returned to the country. EWLA [Ethiopian Women Lawyers Association] provided limited legal assistance to such victims. The federal police's Women's Affairs Bureau, in collaboration with the media, continued to implement a public awareness program on the dangers of migrating to Middle Eastern countries. The Children, Youth, and Family Affairs Department of the Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs chaired the National Steering Committee Against Sexual Exploitation of Children. There were some government initiatives during the year to combat trafficking, including government consultation with IOM.” [3a] (p18)

6.77 IRIN news reported on 29 June 2004:

“The first-ever centre to help victims of trafficking opened in the Ethiopian capital, Addis Ababa, on Tuesday. It will offer support to the estimated 40,000 women and girls believed to be victims of trafficking, according to the International Organization for Migration (IOM)....The women will be offered shelter, medical assistance and psychosocial counselling at the US \$412,000 centre, which was funded by the US Agency for International Development....The Meraf (Amharic for New Chapter) Centre, which will accommodate up to 12 victims of trafficking at a time, is run by a local NGO, the Good Samaritan Association.” [9z]

6.78 The US State Department's 2004 Report on Human Rights notes that:

“The law prohibits trafficking in persons; however, there were numerous reports that persons were trafficked to, from, and within the country. Child prostitution was a problem, particularly in urban areas....NGOs reported that impoverished girls as young as age 11 were recruited to work in houses of prostitution where they were kept uninformed of the risks of HIV/AIDS infection and other sexually transmitted diseases. A 2003 Family Health International Report indicated that customers targeted younger girls because they were believed to be free of sexually transmitted diseases.” [3b] (p18)

6.79 The US State Department's 2003 Report on Human Rights noted that:

“There was a network of persons in Addis Ababa based in the tourism and trade sectors who were heavily involved in soliciting potential clients, recruiting young girls, arranging travel, and fabricating counterfeit work permits, travel documents, and birth certificates. There were reports from the EWLA [Ethiopian

Women's Lawyers Association] that some domestic workers abroad were subjected to abusive conditions, including sexual exploitation. In addition, the employers of domestic laborers sometimes seized passports, failed to pay salaries, and overworked their employees. Some domestics were forced to work for their employers' relatives without additional pay. Domestics were forced to pay a monetary penalty for leaving their employment early." [3c] (p29)

FREEDOM OF MOVEMENT

- 6.80 The Constitution provides for freedom of travel and residence, both internally and abroad, and allows emigration and repatriation. [4] (p11)
- 6.81 The US State Department Report on Human Rights 2004 noted that: "The law requiring citizens and residents to obtain an exit visa before departing the country was eliminated in July [2004]. Eritreans and Ethiopians of Eritrean origin had their status regularized by the Government." [3b] (p12)

6.B HUMAN RIGHTS: SPECIFIC GROUPS

ETHNIC GROUPS

- 6.82 The US State Department's Human Rights Report 2005 documented that:
- "There were more than 80 ethnic groups living in the country, of which the Oromo was the largest, at 40 percent of the population. Although many groups influenced the political and cultural life of the country, Amharas and Tigrayans from the northern highlands played a dominant role. The federal system drew boundaries roughly along major ethnic group lines, and regional states had much greater control over their affairs than previously. Most political parties remained primarily ethnically based." [3a] (p19)

ETHNIC DIVISIONS

- 6.83 The US State Department's Human Rights Report 2005 documented that:
- "The government policy of ethnic federalism led to the creation of individual constituencies to ensure representation of all major ethnic groups in the House of Peoples' Representatives. Nevertheless, small ethnic groups lacked representation in the legislature. There were 23 nationality groups in 6 regional states that did not have a sufficient population to qualify for constituency seats; however, in the May [2005] elections, individuals from these nationality groups competed for 23 special seats in the 547-seat House of Peoples' Representatives." [3a] (p13)
- 6.84 The Report goes on to state that: "The military remained an ethnically diverse organization; however, members of the Tigrayan ethnic group dominated the senior officer corps. During the May elections and subsequent demonstrations, there were many reports of Tigrayan or Gambellan troops being used in Addis Ababa and other urban centers where the opposition was strong, and where officials did not consider Amhara members of the armed forces sufficiently reliable." [3a] (p19)

6.85 The Report also noted: "There were continued incidents of ethnic conflict during the year, particularly in the western, southern, and eastern areas. The OLF and the government engaged in many clashes. There were also clashes among ethnic groups in the Gambella, Somali, and Southern Nations, Nationalities, and Peoples regions." [3a] (p19)

6.86 The Report continued:

"Interethnic clashes resulted in hundreds of deaths during the year. EHRCO [The Ethiopian Human Rights Council] reported ethnic conflicts between Somalis and Oromos in East and West Hararghe Zones, and ethnic clashes between Gabras and Gujis in Borena Zone of the Oromiya Region. On February 22, armed ethnic Somali Ethiopian groups raided several Oromo villages and killed 18 persons, injured 31, burnt 103 huts, looted cattle, and destroyed property. Following the administrative transfer of several villages between the Oromiya and Somali regions after a December 2004 referendum, harassment and intimidation by Somalis of Oromos residing in Erer District caused the displacement of 760 persons." [3a] (p19)

6.87 And furthermore the Report also noted:

"EHRCO reported that on April 2 [2005], armed Somali tribesmen raided an Oromo village in Kurkur Kebele, Golo Oda District, and killed 14 persons, injured 10, and displaced 1,358 Oromos. An April 3 clash between Gabras and Gujis in Yabelo District, Borana Zone, Oromo Region, killed 24 persons. Intervention by the army stopped the clash from escalating, but fighting resumed on April 29, killing 19 individuals and displacing 30 thousand persons; 1,378 huts were also burned. On June 27, clashes between ethnic Somali and Oromo in Mieso and Doba districts of West Hararghe Zone resulted in 16 Oromos killed, 25 Oromos injured, and an unknown number of persons displaced." [3a] (p19)

6.88 The US State Department's Human Rights Report 2004 states that:

"Security forces were involved in ethnic clashes during the year [2004], most prominently in the Gambella disturbances that began in December 2003 and continued until May [2004]. In December 2003, unknown assailants, presumed to be Anuaks, ambushed a vehicle near the village of Itang, Gambella Region and killed eight government officials of ethnic groups not indigenous to Gambella Region. For 3 days, civilian mobs, with police and military present, killed more than 100 members of the Anuak tribe in retaliation. Parliament appointed a commission to investigate the killings and the possible involvement of the military in killing civilians. The parliamentary commission found that 65 persons had died, and that government soldiers killed 13 of them. Other accounts, including from a Parliament member from Gambella who witnessed the incident, indicated the number killed by the military was considerably higher." [3b] (pp19-20) The USSD 2005 Report stated that: "The government reported that prosecutions had begun against several individuals suspected of the December 2003 to May 2004 extrajudicial killings of 13 Anuak civilians in the Gambella Region. In March Amnesty International reported that government soldiers had killed, raped, and tortured hundreds of Anuaks in the Gambella Region during that period." [3a] (p2)

6.89 The US State Department's Human Rights Report 2003 noted that:

“In May [2003], the Government reportedly completed its investigation into the March 2002 ethnic violence between the Sheko-Mejjangar and Manja and the Sheka and Bench-Maji in Yeki District, Southern Region, that resulted in the deaths of approximately 600 to 800 persons and displacement of 5,800 persons because of the violence. There was no further information at year’s end [2003] on the 41 policemen, 39 militia members, and 11 administrative officials reportedly arrested for their involvement in the clashes.” [3c] (p24)

LANGUAGES IN ETHIOPIA

- 6.90 The Constitution provides for equal recognition for all Ethiopian languages although Amharic is the working language of the Federal Government. [4] (p3)
- 6.91 Kenneth Katzner, in his book *Languages of the World*, notes that the Cushitic languages are spoken mainly in Ethiopia and Somalia, though they also extend into Eritrea, Sudan, and Kenya. The Cushitic languages of Ethiopia include Oromo, Sidamo, and Hadiyya, as well as Somali, and are spoken by about half the population of Ethiopia. [33] (p29)
- 6.92 Katzner, in his book, stated that: “Amharic, the national language of Ethiopia. It is the mother tongue of about 20 million people (one third of the country’s population), living mostly in the vicinity of the capital, Addis Ababa, and in the area to the north. About 30 million others speak it as a second language.” [33] (p304) The book also stated that: “Oromo, formerly known as Galla, is one of the two major languages of Ethiopia. It is spoken mainly in the southern part of the country, and in small numbers across the border in Kenya.” [33] (p306) Katzner further mentions that: “Tigrinya is spoken in Ethiopia and in neighboring Eritrea. In the former it is spoken by [sic] about 4 million people, most of them in the northernmost province of Tigray....Like Amharic, Tigrinya belongs to the Ethiopic branch of the Semitic languages. It is most closely related to Tigre, the other principle language of Eritrea. All three are written in the Ethiopic alphabet.” [33] (p307)

OROMOS

- 6.93 The CIA factbook on Ethiopia (updated on 1 November 2005) stated that the Oromo People account for 40 per cent of the population, which makes them the majority group in Ethiopia. [2] (p3) The World Directory of Minorities (1997) noted that: “Oromo are the largest ethnic minority group in Ethiopia, and are speakers of Oromo languages (Oromigna, Oromiffa, ‘Galla’). They are predominant in southern, south-eastern and south-western Ethiopia but also live in the highland areas.” [34] (p413)
- 6.94 The World Directory of Minorities (1997) also notes that: “They are diverse in terms of their culture, social organization and religion, although most retain some features of their unique and complex generation-grading system, ‘gada’. In some areas they are too assimilated with the Amhara to be easily organised into a disciplined national opposition.” [34] (p413)
- 6.95 It further added:
- “There are four main groups: western Oromo, mainly in ‘Wollegga’, many of whom have been Christianised by missionary churches; northern Oromo, of

Mecha-Tulam, modern Shoa and the area to the south, who are more integrated into Amhara culture than other Oromo groups, are mostly Christians of the Ethiopian Orthodox Church and speak Amharic; southern Oromo, who often have semi-nomadic lifestyles and are not incorporated into any larger regional or religious unit. And Borana, believed by some to be the seminal branch of the Oromo because of their rigid observance of the 'gada' social system, and who live in an arid area of Ethiopia along the border with Kenya. Eastern Oromo of Haraghe include the Muslim population of Harar and Dire Dawa, among others. This group has strong links to the Arab world and its local leaders have a strong Muslim orientation. The term Oromia, signifying an independent Oromo state, is important to the Oromo and the OLF [Oromo Liberation Front], allowing them to consolidate their various regional and related groups into one Oromo nation." [34] (pp413-414)

6.96 The OLF website describes the Oromo people – as:

"The Oromo are one of the Cushitic speaking groups of people with variations in colour and physical characteristics ranging from Hamitic to Nilotic....The Cushitics have inhabited the north-eastern and eastern Africa for as long as recorded history. The land of Cush, Nubia or the ancient Ethiopia in middle and lower Nile is the home of the Cushitic speakers....The Oromo are also known by another name, Galla. The people neither call themselves or like to be called by this name. They always called themselves Oromoo or Oromoota (plural). It is not known for certain when the name Galla was given to them." [20b] (pp4-7)

6.97 Human Rights Watch notes:

"Oromia is the largest and most populous of Ethiopia's nine regional states. It sprawls over 32 percent of the country's total land area and is home to at least 23 million people. Oromia surrounds the nation's capital, Addis Ababa, and divides Ethiopia's southwestern states from the rest of the country. While Oromia's population is ethnically diverse, the overwhelming majority of people who reside there are ethnic Oromo. The Oromo population is quite diverse in terms of history, religion and other factors, but the group shares a common language, *Afan Oromo* and a strong and distinct sense of ethnic and national identity. Oromo nationalism has evolved in response to the Oromo people's long, difficult and often antagonistic relationship with the Ethiopian state. Much of what is now Oromia was conquered and forcibly incorporated into the Amhara-dominated Ethiopian empire towards the end of the nineteenth century. During the old imperial era, the Oromo people were subjected to widespread repression." (Human Rights Watch –10 May 2005) [11g] (p7)

6.98 IRIN news reported on 3 March 2004:

"Ethiopia's human rights group on Wednesday condemned the mass arrests and physical abuse in January [2004] of hundreds of university students in the capital, Addis Ababa." [9x] Amnesty International, on 23 January 2004, stated that: "The first eight Oromo students...were arrested on the Addis Ababa University campus on 18 January [2004], and are reportedly currently held at Maikelawi police central investigation centre in Addis Ababa. Over 300 students who called for their release were later arrested...22 students are still detained but others have mostly been released. Those still held are at risk of ill-treatment in custody." [10i]

6.99 Amnesty further notes that:

“The first eight were arrested after protests at a cultural performance at the university, staged by the Oromia Region ruling party. The performance broke up when several Oromo students protested to Oromia regional state officials about the recent federal government decision to transfer the regional state capital from Addis Ababa to Adama (also known as Nazareth), a town 100 kilometres south-east of Addis Ababa. Police arrested the eight students that evening, and accused them of causing damage to university property, including broken windows.” [10I]

For further information about the Oromiya region where most of the Oromo people live please refer to the Ethiopian Embassy website (Regional States): www.ethioembassy.org.uk

Please refer to [Rebel Groups/Illegal Opposition Parties](#) in section 5 for further information on OLF.

AMHARAS

6.100 AFRICAGUIDE.COM, on their website, describe the Amaras as a:

“Politically and culturally dominant ethnic group of Ethiopia. They are located primarily in the central highland plateau of Ethiopia and comprise the major population element in the provinces of Begemder and Gojjam and in parts of Shoa and Wallo. In terms of the total Ethiopian population, however, the Amhara are a numerical minority. The national population has usually been placed at between 14 and 22 million....It is generally estimated that the Amhara, together with the closely related Tigre, constitute about one-third of this total population.” [13a]

6.101 The article goes on to state:

“Their national clothes are basically white, whether the shawls and light blankets worn over the shoulders by the men or the white dresses and wraps worn by the ladies....Life in the Amhara farming society is hard. Many Amhara live in the harsh and stark mountains, easy to defend, but making it difficult to travel and gain provisions. The men in the fields, the women around the house and the children at home and watching the sheep all work very hard. The fields are ploughed [sic] with oxen, seeds are sown and harvested by hand, and the harvest is threshed by the feet of animals. In the home, the primary cooking fuel is the dried dung of the farm animals. Nothing is wasted.” [13a]

6.102 The article continues:

“Though their life is hard, the Amhara are proud people, proud of their ethnicity, their religion, their special place in the world. Their culture is strong, developed over many centuries, and it has withstood the incursions of outside governments and religions....Settlements are typically built on or near hilltops, as protection against flooding. Farms are terraced on the hillsides to prevent erosion and hold water for crops. The ‘hamlet’ is usually patrilineal, with sons building their homes in the father’s location. Girls normally marry at age 14, and the groom is three to five years older....Children receive little discipline until about age five to seven, but thereafter are socialized with authoritarian

discipline. Boys herd cows and sheep and girls assist their mothers in watching babies and gathering wood.” [13a]

- 6.103 The Africa South of the Sahara 2005 Report noted that Amharas are represented in the Government by the Amhara National Democratic Movement (ANDM), which won 134 seats in the 2000 elections and is affiliated to the ruling EPRDF. [1a] (pp443-444)

For further information about the Amhara region, where most of the Amhara people live please refer to the Ethiopian Embassy website (Regional States): www.ethioembassy.org.uk

SIDAMA/SIDAMO

- 6.104 The World Directory of Minorities (1997) noted that:

“There are eight distinct groups of Sidama people living in parts of Shoa and Sidamo-Borana provinces. They speak Cushitic and have an ‘ensete’ (false banana) planting culture. Before Oromo migration, the Sidama inhabited almost the whole of southern Ethiopia. Oromo used the term, ‘sidama’ meaning ‘foreigner’, and one of the eight groups still retains that name. An interchange of Sidama and Oromo institutions took place during the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries. Consequently some are animist, others Christian or Muslim. By 1891 the Sidama people had been incorporated into the Ethiopian Empire.” [34] (p414)

SOMALIS

- 6.105 The CIA factbook on Ethiopia (updated 30 June 2005) stated that: “The Somali people account for around 6% of the population.” [2] (pp3-4) The World Directory of Minorities (1997) noted that Somalis “populate the Ogaden area...Disintegration of the state in Somalia in the late 1980’s and early 1990’s led to the few remaining Somali organizations in Ogaden rejecting irredentism and reorientating themselves towards Ethiopian political life.” [34] (414)

- 6.106 An Addis Tribune article dated 5 August 2005 stated:

“In the late 1970s, Somalia and Ethiopia went to war over Ogaden. Somalia claimed Ogaden belonged to it and that the colonial boundaries ignored centuries-old migration patterns of Somalis into what is now part of Ethiopia....Somalia lost the war, but that didn’t restore calm in Ogaden. There are several Ethiopian opposition groups operating in the area, including the Ogaden National Liberation Front, or ONLF. Another group, al-Ittihad, an Islamist organization linked to al-Qaida, according to experts, has petered out over the last decade.” [35a]

- 6.107 The article also states: “Terrorist attacks in eastern Ethiopia this week have drawn attention to the plight of ethnic Somalis living in Ethiopia’s Ogaden region, where opposition groups have accused Ethiopia’s government of massive human rights abuses over the last decade, including hundreds of killings and disappearances. [35a]

[Return to contents](#)

[Go to list of Sources](#)

BERTA ('SHANKELLA', BENI, SHANGUI)

6.108 The World Directory of Minorities (1997) noted that:

"The Berta regard themselves as descended from a single family whom they trace back to 1720. Islam was established among them by 1855. They were conquered 1897-8 by imperial forces while their leader, Shaikh Khojali, preserved their autonomy by regular tribute of alluvial gold... They and other Nilotic peoples have been labelled pejoratively as 'Shankella', although this was officially discharged by Haile Selassie. Many Berta were brought to the capital as slaves. Slave trading was a business which the Shaikh Khojali family conducted with Sudan-based traders as well as Ethiopians. Berta were much desired as slaves by raiders on both sides of the Sudan-Ethiopian border."

[34] (p414)

AFAR

6.109 The CIA factbook on Ethiopia (updated 1 November 2005) noted that:

"The Afar make up only around 4% of the total Ethiopian population." [2] (p4)
The World Directory of Minorities (1997) noted that: "Afar have been most effected by the creation of an independent Eritrea. At the time of its inception, the Afar Liberation Front (ALF) leader, Ali Mirah Anfere, declared that the ALF's goal would be to establish an independent Islamic State for the Afars. Its boundaries were to be decided by Afar ethnic habitation, including the Awash River Basin and neighbouring territories in the southern part of Eritrea. Mengistu's creation of an autonomous province of Assab did nothing to settle the Afar issue, since the most fertile land in the Awash Valley remained in Amhara control." [34] (p414)

6.110 AFRICAGUIDE.COM, on their website, describe the Afar people as people who:

"live primarily in Ethiopia and the areas of Eritrea, Djibouti, and Somaliacan in the Horn of Africa. Their land is mainly rocky and desert terrain. The Afar people also live in the Awash Valley and the forests located in northern Djibouti. There are approximately 3 million people that make up the Afar culture.... The Afar nomads have a very unique culture. Their daily life consists of tending to livestock including goats, camels, and a few cattle located in this region. The Afar people are very dependent on the livestock for the economy. Religion is also a part of the Afar way of life. The majority studies the Muslim religion. There is although a small percentage that practices Orthodoxy" [13b]

GURAGE

6.111 According to the CIA factbook on Ethiopia (Updated on 1 November 2005):

"The Gurage people make up around 2% of the Ethiopian population." [2] (p4)
The World Directory of Minorities (1997) noted that "There are 14 to 16 groups in the Gurage cluster. The western group formed a political federation in the mid-nineteenth century consisting of seven clans inhabiting an area around Lake Zway in Shoa. They are 'ensete' cultivators like their neighbours in Sidamo. Some claim descent from a Tigrayan noble who came to conquer them in the fourteenth century. Eastern Gurage (Soddo) trace their origins to the

Harar area from which they fled during the sixteenth century invasion of Ahmad ibn Ibrahim. An attempt at unifying the western Gurage under one leader was allegedly made by a Christian commander who came to relieve them of Oromo raids. Emperor Menelik II incorporated both eastern and western Gurage into the empire by 1889. Gurage men weave and market cloth. Certain sub-castes tan hides or smelt iron. Pottery is a woman's craft. Gurage women continue to be excluded from land ownership. The Soddo Gurage reportedly follow the custom of circumcising both boys and girls at infancy, while the western group are said to circumcise both boys and girls (clitoridectomy) at the age of eight and ten respectively. Christian, Muslim and traditional Gurage belief in the god Waq, co-exist to varying degrees depending on the area. In the country and in cities Gurage are adept at forming self-help societies and are active traders." [34] (p415)

ANUAK

6.112 The World Directory of Minorities (1997) noted that:

"Associated with Sudanese penetration of a vaguely defined 'Ethiopia', these people date from the first millennium BCE [Before Common Era] with a culture preoccupied with cattle raiding and millet growing. The Anuak are hunters, agriculturalists and fishers living in the fertile Gambela forest region of south-western Ethiopia. At the end of 1979, their land was seized by the government and there were attempts to draft them into the army and into forced labour on collective farms. Many Anuak fled to the bush in an attempt to reach Sudan and were shot or imprisoned. Their numbers have halved from a generation ago and they have been displaced from their traditional lands as northerners resettled in the area." [34] (p415)

6.113 Amnesty International, in a Report covering events from January–December 2004, stated that:

"A Commission of Inquiry headed by the President of the Supreme Court was set up by parliament in April following numerous killings of members of the Anuak ethnic group in Gambela town in December 2003. In July the Commission reported that 65 people were killed – 61 Anuak people and four members of highland ethnic groups – and 75 wounded, and that nearly 500 houses had been burned down and plundered. The Commission noted a background of ethnic conflict in the region. Three days of killings starting on 13 December 2003 were sparked off by the public display of the bodies of eight people allegedly killed by an Anuak armed group. The Commission criticized the regional authorities for not taking steps to prevent violence and acknowledged that federal soldiers were involved in the killings alongside highlanders. The Commission made no recommendations regarding prosecution of those responsible, whether police, military or civilians. To AI's knowledge, no one had been brought to justice by the end of 2004 for the killings of Anuak people." [10a] (pp2-3)

6.114 The recent violence in the Gambella region has its roots in history. The BBC news report, dated 12 February 2004 notes that:

"Aid agencies say the Anyuak (sic) people feel they have been gradually displaced from their traditional lands. The problem began in the 1980s – when the previous government used forced resettlement to bring about 50,000 people

from Ethiopia's exhausted central highlands to the fertile, but swampy, malaria-infested Gambella. Pressure increased as thousands of ethnic Nuer sought shelter in the region to escape from the Sudanese civil war...Last year the authorities sacked a number of Anyuak (sic), including some policemen. They are reported to have taken their weapons and gone into the bush, carrying out sporadic attacks." [7u]

A Human Rights Watch report, called '*Targetting the Anuak*' published on 24 March 2005 and available on their website, provides useful information on the Anuk: www.hrw.org

ADARE/GEFU (HARAR)

6.115 The World Directory of Minorities (1997) noted that:

"The Oromo and Amhara residents of greater Harar call the inner-city residents Adare. There are about 30,000 in the old city, with a distinct language and culture. The Adare are distinguished for being the only people in Ethiopia to have developed a tradition centring on a large urban centre. In their own language the term for Adare is Gefu, literally, person of the city. Adare is also the language spoken in Harar and is written in Arabic characters. Harar is the premier Muslim city of Ethiopia. An overlapping social network is divided into kinship networks, groups and neighbours. The latter concerns itself with the expenses of weddings and funerals in a cooperative way. A school was established in 1972 to counter the central government effort to spread the Amharic language and restrict Islamic religious instruction. In 1975 the Dergue (sic) imposed a 'kebele' system of local government, as the neighbourhood groups refused to be politicized." [34] (p415)

BETA ISRAEL

6.116 The World Directory of Minorities (1997) noted that:

"Also known as the Ethiopian Jews, and until recently by the derogatory name Falasha (meaning stranger or exile in Ge'ez), at their peak in the seventeenth century there were over 1 million Beta Israel in Ethiopia. Before mass migration to Israel in the 1980's they numbered approximately 30,000 and lived in Gondar province and the Simien Mountains in northern Ethiopia. The Beta Israel perceive themselves to be Jewish, living a traditional form of life evolving from at least the fourteenth century, although some suggest that their origins are more ancient. Their ancestors were deprived of the right to hold land as a result of the north-west expansion of the core Abyssinian State. Beta Israel consider contact with Christians to be ritually impure, and this reinforced the self-identity of Beta Israel and allowed them to continue their religious and social life in the face of pressure to convert, while being excluded from positions of authority within the state. Their basic tenets are those of Judaism." [34] (p415)

6.117 The report further adds:

"Most Ethiopian Jews lived in small rural communities in Gondar and Tigre provinces, where they suffered from prejudice at the hands of neighbouring peoples. The Ethiopian Orthodox Church opposed the development of Jewish schools. After World War Two, they continued to face discrimination and suffer evictions, extortionate taxes and rents, and attacks on cemeteries. After the

revolution of 1974, in theory the position of Beta Israel was improving because of the land reform. But Jews were often given inferior land and their freedom to travel was restricted. Beta Israel had much to gain from the land reforms and were made the target of the counter-revolutionary Ethiopian Democratic Union, composed of the old nobility and landowners in Gondar. During 1977-79 they were forced to flee remote villages and move to areas of greater concentration.” [34] (pp415-416)

6.118 The World Directory of Minorities (1997) further noted that:

“They were also attacked by the Ethiopian Peoples Revolutionary Party for alleged Zionist tendencies. Substantial numbers of Jews were among the thousands tortured, imprisoned, and massacred in the 1978 ‘Red Terror’ campaigns waged by the Dergue (sic). In March 1984, at the height of the famine in northern Ethiopia, thousands of Beta Israel began to move to Sudan by foot. Several thousands lost their lives in transit, children were orphaned and separated from their parents, and disease and malnutrition were rife in the refugee camps. At the end of 1984 Operation Moses brought many more to Israel, and others left in 1991 in Operation Solomon.” [34] (p416)

Refer to section 5 on [Religion – Ethiopian Jews](#), for further information.

ERITREANS IN ETHIOPIA

(also see Eritrean Report)

6.119 During the border war, the Government detained and deported Eritreans and Ethiopians of Eritrean origin without due process. The US State Department’s Human Rights Report 2001 noted that:

“The Government’s actions raised serious issues of due process since there were no preliminary hearings to determine the merits of the deportations, no right to counsel was provided to detainees, and detainees only had a very circumscribed opportunity to register protests. In addition the issue of the nationality of Eritrean-origin Ethiopians has not been settled yet. Heads of households were taken without warning, detained, and often deported via overland routes within 48 hours. Remaining family members were given arbitrary deadlines to sell property and sometimes were subjected to departure taxes based on estimated annual income and unpaid balances on government bank loans.” [3i] (p9)

6.120 The deportations of Eritreans from Ethiopia were the subject of thorough investigation by the Ethiopia-Eritrea Claims Commission, which was set up under the December 2000 Algiers Peace Agreement. Its detailed findings were published in 2005 and can be consulted on the website of the Permanent Court of Arbitration at the Hague. (The Permanent Court of Arbitration, www.pca-cpa.org) [47a]

6.121 The US Report of 2001 noted that: “In August 1999, all Eritreans and Ethiopians of Eritrean origin over 18 years of age who had taken part in the 1993 referendum on Eritrean independence were required to register with the SIRAA [Security, Immigration and Refugee Affairs Authority] and complete residence

application forms. After registration applicants received identity cards and residence permits valid for 6 months.” [3i] (p9)

- 6.122 The US State Department’s Human Rights Report for 2005 stated that: “Most Eritreans and Ethiopians of Eritrean origin were registered with the Government and held identity cards and 6-month residence permits to gain access to hospitals and other public services. However, there were anecdotal reports that indigent Eritreans were denied the right to seek free medical services by government officials at the local level.” [3a] (p12)

- 6.123 More recently, the ruling party-owned Walta Information Centre announced on 20 January 2004 that:

“Security, Immigration and Refugee Affairs Authority said it has issued a directive outlining duties Eritreans residing in Ethiopia are required to fulfill for eligibility. The Authority said in a statement yesterday said (sic) anyone bearing an Eritrean passport or possessing any document proving his/her Eritrean citizenship or who served for the Eritrean government in a job reserved for citizens only is considered an Eritrean.” [36a]

- 6.124 “The directive states that those who did not opt for Eritrean citizenship will be considered as choosing their Ethiopian nationality, and thus shall maintain an Ethiopian citizenship. An Eritrean who registers in compliance of the directive and who wants to regain Ethiopian nationality shall be granted Ethiopian citizenship...Resident Eritreans will be granted permanent resident permits in line with the Immigration law, and those who could not own travel documents from their country, shall be granted foreigner passports, the authority said.” [36a]

- 6.125 In a further article dated 23 January 2004, Walta Information Centre noted that:

“The Security Immigration and Refugee Affairs Authority said that the newly issued directive with regard to Eritreans residing in Ethiopia emanate from the country’s commitment to abide by national and international laws as well as conventions it signed and the strong ties the peoples of the two countries enjoy. Briefing local journalists on the premises of the authority yesterday, immigration and Nationality Affairs Director Girma Balcha said that the objective of the directive is to enable Eritreans residing in Ethiopia to maintain their citizenship in a legal manner for the constitution of this country doesn’t allow one to have double citizenship. Ato Girma further said that any one with Eritrean passport and possessing other documents and is also served in offices only allowed for nationals maintains Eritrean citizenship. Eritreans who have voted for independence and lived in Ethiopia uninterrupted would also remain Eritrean nationals unless otherwise they appeal for change of citizenship, he said. However, Ato Girma said that those who had not voted and lived here uninterrupted would be granted permanent Ethiopian Citizenship. ‘This would be terminated if individuals attempt to produce fake documents or they stay outside Ethiopia for more than a year and also found undesirable to the nation’, Ato Girma stated. Those granted permanent Ethiopian citizenship are not allowed to serve at government offices, he added. Eligible Eritreans are allowed to run their own business and work in non-governmental institutions and have the right to possess property including farmlands if they are living in rural areas, according to Ato Girma.” [36b]

- 6.126 On 22 January 2004, the Ethiopian News Agency noted that:

“The recently issued directive with regard to Eritreans residing in Ethiopia could benefit only those Eritreans who lived in Ethiopia prior to Eritrean independence and afterwards permanently, security, immigration and refugees affairs authority said. Director of immigration and nationalities affairs main department with the authority Girma Balcha told journalists on Thursday that the directive doesn’t include those Eritreans deported from Ethiopia posing threat to the national security of the country. Those Eritreans coming from any country to Ethiopia either (sic) couldn’t benefit from the directive, he said.” [8a]

- 6.127 The US State Department’s Report on Human Rights, 2004, notes that: “The law requiring citizens and residents to obtain an exit visa before departing the country was eliminated in July [2004]. Eritreans and Ethiopians of Eritrean origin had their status regularized by the Government.” [3b] (p12)

DEPORTATIONS AND REPATRIATIONS

- 6.128 The US State Department’s 2005 Human Rights Report stated that:

“During the year [2005] the ICRC repatriated 427 Ethiopians from Eritrea to Ethiopia and repatriated 192 Eritreans from Ethiopia to Eritrea. Most Eritreans and Ethiopians of Eritrean origin registered with the government and received identity cards and six-month renewable residence permits that allowed them to gain access to hospitals and other public services. However, there were anecdotal reports that local government officials denied indigent Eritreans the right to free medical services.” [3a] (p12)

- 6.129 The US State Department’s 2004 Human Rights Report stated that:

“In 2002, the Government transferred at least 200 Eritrean military deserters who had been held at the Dedesa detention centre to a northern refugee camp. UNHCR processed 178 cases in 2002 and 94 during the year for resettlement to third countries. At year’s end, it was unknown whether additional cases were still pending. As a result of the 1998 to 2000 war with Eritrea, thousands of persons were displaced internally. Of the approximately 350,000 IDPs resulting from the border war, approximately 225,000 IDPs have been resettled.” [3b] (p13)

- 6.130 The US State Department’s 2002 Human Rights Report stated that:

“The Government stopped deporting forcibly Eritreans and Ethiopians of Eritrean origin after it signed the cessation of hostilities agreement with Eritrea in June 2000.” [3d] (p8) However in July 2001, IRIN news reported that the ICRC [International Community of the Red Cross] refused to assist in the repatriation of a group of over seven hundred civilians concerned that they had not expressed their consent. [9aa] Human Rights Watch, in its 2002 Report, stated that: “Ethiopia forcibly expelled the 772 people it identified as Eritreans from its territory without prior notification to the International Committee of the Red Cross as anticipated under article 2 of the truce agreement.” [11e] (p5)

- 6.131 The US State Department’s 2002 Human Rights Report stated that: “Detention and deportation was carried out only in conjunction with the ICRC. The Government, together with the ICRC, monitored the deportation or repatriation of 1,188 Eritrean POWs and 774 Eritrean civilians during the year [2002]. In

2001 approximately 80,000 to 100,000 Eritreans and Ethiopians of Eritrean origin resided in the country.” [3d] (p17)

REPATRIATED ETHIOPIAN REFUGEES

6.132 The International Committee of the Red Cross reported on 25 February 2005:

“On 25 February 2005, 160 Ethiopian civilians were repatriated from Eritrea to Ethiopia under the auspices of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC)....In the same operation, 10 Eritrean civilians were repatriated from Ethiopia to Eritrea....Acting in its capacity as a neutral and independent intermediary, the ICRC carried out this repatriation with the cooperation of the authorities. ICRC delegates based in Eritrea, and an ambulance team of the Eritrean Red Cross accompanied the Ethiopian civilians on the first part of their journey, from Asmara, Eritrea’s capital, to the border. They provided food, water and medical assistance, and helped to transport the luggage. At the crossing point at Mereb River, the group was met by ICRC delegates based in Ethiopia, before being placed in the care of the Ethiopian authorities.” [37a] The ICRC had carried out a similar operation in 2004. The ICRC reported on 3 December 2004: “On 26 November, 200 Ethiopian civilians were repatriated from Eritrea to Ethiopia under the auspices of the ICRC. The group crossed the border at the Mereb river bridge, between the towns of Adi Quala in Eritrea and Rama in Ethiopia. Among those repatriated were eight children and three sick persons returning to their families in Ethiopia.” [37b]

WOMEN

6.133 The 1994 Constitution provides for the equality of women. [4] (pp12-13) The Ethiopian Embassy website describes Ethiopian women as being: “actively involved in all aspects of their society’s life. Women are both producers and procreators and they are also active participants in the social, political, and cultural activities of their communities. However the varied and important roles they play have not always been recognised. The discriminatory political, economic and social rules and regulations prevailing in Ethiopia have barred women from enjoying the fruits of their labour. Without equal opportunities, they have lagged behind men in all fields of self-advancement.”

6.134 The Social Security Online website’s 2005 profile on Ethiopia notes that for maternity there are no statutory benefits provided although “the labor proclamation (2003) and the public service amendment proclamation (2002) require employers to provide paid maternity leave for up to 45 days after childbirth; thereafter, paid sick leave may be paid in case of complications. [31]

6.135 The US State Department’s 2005 Human Rights Report noted that:

“Domestic violence, including spousal abuse and rape, was a pervasive social problem. A July World Bank study concluded that 88 percent of rural women and 69 percent of urban women think their husbands have the right to beat them. While women had recourse to the police and the courts, societal norms and limited infrastructure prevented many women from seeking legal redress, particularly in rural areas. The government began to prosecute offenders on a limited scale....In October the government announced the establishment of a women’s affairs ministry.” [3a] (p16)

- 6.136 The Report Continued: "The new June 2004 penal code criminalized rape, but did not specifically address spousal rape. The government does not fully enforce the code due to lack of awareness of the law, lack of training, and lack of funds." [3a] (p16)
- 6.137 The Report further stated that: "Observers estimated that at least one thousand rapes occurred annually in Addis Ababa, but data based on official police reports counted only approximately 400 cases per year. The press continued to report regularly on rape cases, particularly when injury to minors resulted. Courts sentenced convicted rapists to 10 to 15 years' imprisonment, as prescribed by law." [3a] (p16)
- 6.138 The US State Department's 2005 Human Rights Report also noted that:
- "Although illegal, the abduction of women and girls as a form of marriage continued to be a widespread practice in several regions, including the Amhara, Oromiya, and Southern Nations, Nationalities, and Peoples regions, despite the government's attempts to combat the practice. Forced sexual relationships accompanied most marriages by abduction, and women often experienced physical abuse during the abduction. Many abducted girls married as early as the age of 7, despite the legal minimum age for marriage of 18. Abductions led to conflicts among families, communities, and ethnic groups. In cases of marriage by abduction, the perpetrator did not face punishment if the victim agreed to marry him (unless authorities annulled the marriage); even after the conviction of a perpetrator, authorities often commuted the sentence if the victim married him. There were some signs of growing public awareness of the problems of attacks on women and early marriage." [3a] (p16)
- 6.139 The same Report noted that:
- "Although the law provides for equality of all persons, the government did not effectively enforce these protections. The law sets the legal marriage age for girls and boys at 18; elevates civil law above customary and religious law; allows for the legal sharing of property by unmarried couples who live together for at least five years; eliminates family arbitrators as a means of settling marital disputes in lieu of the court system; allows for the joint administration of common marital property; requires the courts to take into account the situation of children or the weakest member of the family in the event of divorce or separation; and imposes a six-month waiting period on women seeking to remarry following divorce or the death of a spouse. However, regional councils had authority to determine family law for their respective regions. Four regions have established their own family law: Amhara, Tigray, Oromiya, and Addis Ababa. Regional laws are more specific to the region than are federal laws. Regional laws are not uniformly enforced. By law, they cannot conflict with the national constitution." [3a] (pp16-17)
- 6.140 The Report also stated:
- "Discrimination against women was most acute in rural areas, where 85 percent of the population lived. The law contains discriminatory regulations, such as the recognition of the husband as the legal head of the family and the sole guardian of children over five years old. Authorities did not consider domestic violence a

serious justification for granting a divorce. There was only limited juridical recognition of common law marriage. Irrespective of the number of years the marriage existed, the number of children raised, and joint property, the law entitled women to only three months' financial support if the common law relationship ended. A husband had no obligation to provide financial assistance to his family and, as a result, women and children sometimes faced abandonment when there was a problem in the marriage. The law states that any property owned before marriage belongs to the spouse that had it. Any property gained during marriage is shared equally, although a wife does not have the right to inherit her deceased husband's share. Even with stronger formal laws, most rural residents continued to apply customary law in economic and social relationships." [3a] (p16)

6.141 Furthermore the Report further noted that:

"All land belonged to the government. Although women could obtain government leases to land, and the government had an explicit policy to provide equal access for women to land, rural communities rarely enforced this policy. The EWLA [Ethiopian Women's Lawyers Association], reported that, in nearly all regions, women did not have access to land, except through marriage. However, when the husband dies, other family members often take the land from the wife." [3a] (p17)

6.142 IRIN News reported on 18 May 2004:

"Ethiopia was awarded US \$1.5 million on Monday to promote women's rights. The African Development Bank (ADB) pledged the money to help the country meet the global anti-poverty targets – known as the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) – by 2015....Among key MDGs are those concerning the promotion of equal rights for women and their empowerment, as well as massive support for maternal health care. Experts regard improving the lives of women in health care and education as vital if global and Third World poverty is to be overcome." [9ab]

6.143 The article continued to note:

"In Ethiopia, according to the United Nations Children's Fund, women often bear the brunt of poverty, poor health care and lack of education. Only six out of 10 are literate, while less than six percent can expect to receive skilled help during childbirth. Currently, one-fifth more boys than girls attend school....Securing additional funding for the promotion of women's rights and democratic representation is crucial, according to the government and humanitarian agencies. The ADB money will be ploughed into the newly established Women's Affairs Office (WAO) to provide institutional support....The government has pledged to place women at the heart of its development agenda, and accordingly established the WAO under the direction by Gifti Abasiya, the minister of state for women's affairs. Although the country has a far-reaching constitution which promotes gender equality with a legal framework to implement it, officials admit that in reality it has its shortcomings." [9ab]

6.144 The US State Department's 2005 Human Rights Report also noted that:

“Of the 19 members of the Council of Ministers, two were women, and a number of women held senior positions. There were 116 women in the 547-seat House of Peoples' Representatives, and 21 women in the 113-member House of Federation. Of the 14 members of the Supreme Court, 3 were women. During the May 15 national elections women constituted nearly half of the community observers, party workers, and election officials at polling stations.” [3a] (p15)

- 6.145 Trafficking of women is a growing problem. In an IRIN report dated 13 June 2003:

“The IOM says that illegal traffickers who prey on women could make up to 7,000 Ethiopian Birr (more than US \$800) for each victim they send overseas. The IOM say women aged between 18 and 25 are targeted by traffickers at colleges and in poor districts in towns and cities.” [9ac] The US State Department's Human Rights Report 2004 noted that: “There were credible reports from the EWLA and the International Organization for Migration (IOM) that many female workers who traveled to the Middle East as industrial and domestic workers were abused. In August [2004], the Government opened a new consulate in Dubai, in part to assist Ethiopian women workers who were abused.” [3b] (p16)

For more information on this issue see section titled [People Trafficking](#)

FEMALE GENITAL MUTILATION (FGM)

- 6.146 The US State Department's 2005 Human Rights Report noted that:

“The majority of girls undergo some form of female genital mutilation (FGM). Girls typically experienced clitoridectomies seven days after birth (consisting of an excision of the clitoris, often with partial labial excision, and faced infibulation (the most extreme and dangerous form of FGM) at the onset of puberty. According to a Ministry of Health Demographic and Health survey released during the year, the practice of FGM among all women had decreased from 80 to 74 percent, while support for the practice among women had dropped from 60 to 29 percent. In 2004 the new penal code criminalized the circumcision of any female by imprisonment of not less than 3 months or a fine of not less than \$58 (500 birr). Likewise, infibulation of the genitals is punishable with imprisonment of 5 to 10 years.” [3a] (p16)

- 6.147 The Report also noted that:

“The government took some measures to help eradicate FGM. It worked to discourage the practice through education in public schools and broader mass media campaigns. In July 2004 the Hamar District women's affairs bureau removed a district official from office for forcing his wife to undergo FGM. In 2004 the South Omo Zone Mobilization and Social Affairs Department Deputy Head reported that committees to eradicate harmful traditional practices were established in 197 localities through South Omo Zone. In 2004 Eastern Harerge Zone police arrested four women who had allegedly circumcised 62 girls in a single day; local residents allegedly tipped off the police following an intensive media campaign on the harmful effects of circumcision.” [3a] (p16)

- 6.148 The World Organisation Against Torture (OMCT), in its Report on the Rights of the Child in Ethiopia dated 26 June 2003, stated that:

“FGM in Ethiopia ranges from partial to complete excision of the external genitalia, which are then stitched to nearly closed in many cases. The ritual is practiced on girls between the ages of seven days and 16 years old. It is often performed in unsanitary settings by a community ‘specialist’ using an unclean blade. FGM has terrible effects on the child or young girl’s state of health, both at the time and in the future. Apart from potentially fatal haemorrhages, there is a risk of tetanus or septicaemia from the very basic instruments used and neighbouring organs are often damaged due to the girl’s distress.” [38] (p13)

CHILDREN

- 6.149 The US State Department’s 2005 Human Rights Report noted that: “The government supported efforts by domestic and international NGOs that focused on children’s social, health, and legal issues, despite its limited ability to provide improved health care, basic education, or child protection.” [3a] (p17) The Report also noted that: “The government estimated the number of street children totaled 150 to 200 thousand, with approximately 50 to 60 thousand street children in Addis Ababa. The UN Children’s Fund (UNICEF) estimated there were 600 thousand street children in the country and more than 100 thousand in the capital. UNICEF believed the problem was exacerbated because of families’ inability to support children due to parental illness and decreased household income. These children begged, sometimes as part of a gang, or worked in the informal sector. Government and privately run orphanages were unable to handle the number of street children, and older children often abused younger ones. Due to severe resource constraints, hospitals and orphanages often overlooked or neglected abandoned infants. ‘Handlers’ sometimes maimed or blinded children to raise their earnings from begging.” [3a] (p18)

- 6.150 The same Report additionally noted that:

“There were laws against child labor; however, the government did not effectively implement these laws in practice and child labor remained a serious problem, both in urban and rural areas. Under the law, the minimum age for wage or salary employment is 14 years, which was consistent with the age for completing primary school; the minimum age for employment was not effectively enforced, however. Special provisions cover children between the ages of 14 and 18, including the prohibition of hazardous or night work. By law, children between the ages of 14 and 18 were not permitted to work more than 7 hours per day, work between the hours of 10 pm and 6 am, work on public holidays or rest days, or perform overtime work. The government defined hazardous work as work in factories or involving machinery with moving parts, or any work that could jeopardize a child’s health.” [3a] (p21)

- 6.151 The Report goes on to state that:

“A 2001 ILO-funded survey on child labor found that 40 percent of children began working before the age of 6. It also found the average number of hours worked in a week by children ages 5 to 17 was 32.8 hours. Approximately 13 percent of boys and girls between the ages of 5 and 9 worked from 58 to 74 hours a week. More than two-thirds of all children surveyed were giving either

all or part of their earnings to their parents or guardians. Reduced household income from poor crop harvests and children dropping out of school were two factors contributing to the increased incidence of child labor.” [3a] (p21)

6.152 The Report further adds:

“Child laborers often faced abuse. A 1999 study concluded that compared to non-working children, child workers faced twice as much physical and emotional abuse, five times as much sexual abuse, and eight times as much neglect. Among child workers surveyed, rapes occurred exclusively among child domestic laborers....The government's definition of worst forms of child labor included prostitution and bonded labor. During the year there were reports of forced or bonded labor of children who had been trafficked from the Oromiya Region and the Southern Nations, Nationalities, and Peoples Region to other regions of the country to work as domestic servants. Family members reportedly forced young girls into prostitution.” [3a] (p21)

6.153 The Report added: “Societal abuse of young girls continued to be a problem. FGM was performed on the majority of girls. Other harmful traditional practices included uvulectomy, milk teeth extraction, early marriage, marriage by abduction, and food and work prohibitions.” [3a] (p17)

6.154 The OMCT, in its Report on the Rights of the Child in Ethiopia dated 26 June 2003, stated that: “Juveniles aged between 15 and 18 are considered to be fully responsible for their actions and, with the exception of death penalty, face full penal responsibility...juveniles who are 15–18 years old can be subjected to life imprisonment.” [38] (p21)

6.155 The US State Department's 2004 Human Rights Report noted that: “Child prostitution continued to be a problem and was widely perceived to be growing, and children were trafficked out of the country in adoption schemes.” [3b] (p17)

6.156 The Report further noted that: “There were unconfirmed reports that children from the south were transported into Kenya by child traffickers operating adoption rings, and adopted as other nationalities.” [3b] (p17)

6.157 The same Report noted that:

“According to an NGO report, 60 percent of commercial sex workers were between the ages of 16 and 25. Underage girls worked as hotel workers, barmaids, and prostitutes in resort towns and rural truck stops. Pervasive poverty, migration to urban centres, early marriage, HIV/AIDS and sexually transmitted diseases, and limited educational and job opportunities aggravated the commercial sexual exploitation of children. A few NGOs aided child victims, including the Forum on Street Children Ethiopia, which provided children forced into prostitution or commercial sexual exploitation with shelter, protection, and return to their families.” [3b] (p18)

6.158 The Report also noted that:

“In the Afar region of the east, young girls continued to be married to much older men, but this traditional practice continued to come under greater scrutiny and criticism. Indigenous NGOs, such as the Kembatta Women's Self Help

Center and the Tigray Women's Association, also affected societal attitudes toward harmful traditional practices and early marriage. Media accounts suggested increasing awareness of the problem. An account in February [2004] from a rural district noted that 74 children in the district had been rescued from marriages at ages as young as 9, through the intervention of the schools and local officials. Pregnancy at an early age often led to obstetric fistulae and permanent incontinence. Treatment was available at only 1 hospital in Addis Ababa that performed more than 1,000 fistula operations a year. It estimated that for every successful operation performed, 10 other young women needed the treatment. The maternal mortality rate was extremely high, partly due to food taboos for pregnant women, poverty, early marriage, and birth complications related to FGM, particularly infibulation." [3b] (p17)

6.159 The US State Department's 2002 Human Rights Report notes that:

"The Ministry of Defense did not permit persons under the age of 18 to join the armed forces, and the Government made efforts to enforce this policy. There were no reports that children under the age of 18 were recruited into the military during the year [2002]; however, in the past, military officers admitted that underage applicants sometimes were enlisted. Scarce birth certificates, poor educational opportunities, patriotism, and pervasive poverty encouraged underage applicants to try to circumvent restrictions on underage soldiers." [3d] (p24)

CHILDCARE PROVISIONS

6.160 The US State Department's 2005 Human Rights Report also noted that:

"Education is compulsory and universal through grade six, though approximately 20 percent of school-age children do not attend school. By law, primary education is tuition-free. There were not enough schools to accommodate the country's youth, particularly in rural areas, and the cost of uniforms and school supplies was prohibitive for many families. Approximately 74 percent of male primary school-age children and 59 percent of female primary school-age children attended school; in Addis Ababa girls' attendance was slightly higher. Government reports showed that 29 percent of the children who attended school left the system before they reached the second grade, and only 22 percent of children who began first grade completed eighth grade." [3a] (p17)

6.161 IRIN news reported on 10 January 2005 that:

"The rising number of orphans has raised the demand for adoptions to a record high. Some 1,400 children made new homes abroad last year [2004], more than double from the previous year....Adoption agencies also doubled to 30 in the capital Addis Ababa in the last year, a highly lucrative market with some agencies charging parents fees of up to US \$20,000 per child. Buti Gutema, who heads the country's adoption authority, says adoption of orphans poses many quandaries to his government. He blames the growing number of orphans and the increasing numbers of adoptions on poverty....In a move to help stem the growing orphan crisis in Ethiopia, the US government announced a \$20 million project in December to help the 530,000 HIV/AIDS orphans.... Ethiopia has strict adoption laws, but the process can be pushed through in 10–15 days if the paperwork is in order, according to Balti....An international convention, established in 1993, exists to protect children who are adopted overseas. It has

been approved by 66 nations, although the Ethiopian government has not signed it yet....Most mothers will simply abandon their children near a police station or church rather than turn up at orphanages, where by law, they must be turned away. Any children that turn out to be HIV-positive cannot be put up for adoption.” [9ad]

6.162 IRIN news also reported on 23 July 2002 that:

“Hundreds of street children and homeless people were last month forced out of the Ethiopian capital Addis Ababa and dumped in a forest outside the city the Ethiopian Human Rights Council (EHRCO) has said...Some of the children were reportedly only 11-years-old. The round-up, which has only come to light a month after it happened took place during the World Cup....The homeless and the children were rounded up from the centre of the city where a huge television screen had been erected so that people could watch the football matches.” [9ae]

6.163 The US State Department’s 2005 Human Rights Report also noted that: “Child abuse was a problem. Members of an NGO staffed 10 child protection units in Addis Ababa’s police stations to protect the rights of juvenile delinquents and juvenile victims of crime. Some police officers completed training on procedures for handling cases of child abuse and juvenile delinquency.” [3a] (p17)

HOMOSEXUALS

6.164 The US State Department’s 2005 Human Rights Report noted that: “Homosexuality is illegal and punishable by imprisonment. Instances determined to be cruel, involving coercion, or involving a minor (age 13 to 16) are punishable by not less than 3 months or more than 5 years of incarceration. Where children under 13 years of age are involved, the law provides for imprisonment of 5 to 25 years. While society did not widely accept homosexuality, there were no reports of violence against homosexuals.” [3a] (p20)

6.165 Behind the Mask (a website on gay and lesbian affairs in Africa), when accessed on 21 February 2006, reported that:

“Laws covering homosexual activity: Sections 600 and 601 prohibit homosexual acts between men and between women, with a penalty of 10 days to 3 years’ ‘simple imprisonment’. This penalty may be increased by 5 or more years when the offender ‘makes a profession of such activities’, or exploits a dependency relation in order to exercise influence over the other person. The maximum sentence of 10 years’ imprisonment can be applied when the offender uses violence, intimidation or coercion, trickery or fraud, or takes unfair advantage of the victim’s inability to offer resistance. The maximum sentence can also be applied when the victim is subjected to acts of cruelty or sadism; when the offender transmits a venereal disease although fully aware of being infected with it; when an adult is charged with committing homosexual acts with persons under 15 years of age; or when distress, shame or despair drives the victim to committing suicide.” [39a]

6.166 The report continued:

“Ethiopia voted against ILGA [International Lesbian and Gay Association] having consultative status at the UN in January and on April 30, 2002. Berhane

Meskel Abebe, the Ethiopian representative on the UN Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations, said his country voted against ILGA in January because homosexuality is a crime punishable by imprisonment in Ethiopia. 'It doesn't go with our society's belief and general culture and practice.' he is reported to have said." [39a]

- 6.167 On 27 May 2003, Behind the Mask stated: "Local government officials recently called meetings in the various suburbs and villages of Addis Ababa to warn parents about the hazards of homosexuality. Concerned that homosexuality is becoming more visible in the city local authorities are reacting to a recent spate of people coming out as gay or lesbian in the city...[Local officials] also warned that the recent rise in homosexuality is due to parents not looking after their children properly." [39b]

6.C HUMAN RIGHTS – OTHER ISSUES

USE OF TORTURE

- 6.168 The US State Department's Human Rights Report 2005 documented that: "Although the law prohibits the use of torture and mistreatment, there were numerous credible reports that security officials often beat or mistreated detainees. Opposition political parties reported frequent and systematic abuse of their supporters by police and regional militias." [3a] (p3)

- 6.169 The Report also commented on the treatment of students who protested in the Oromo student protests in January 2004 noting: "In October 2004 an undisclosed number of the approximately 330 students expelled from Addis Ababa University following the January 2004 Oromo student protests, who had been ordered by police to kneel and run barefoot on sharp gravel for several hours, were readmitted to the university." [3a] (p4)

- 6.170 Amnesty International reported on 3 February 2006 that:

"Forty-two people have been arrested during Ethiopian Orthodox Church celebrations in the capital, Addis Ababa. They are reportedly being held incommunicado and are at risk of torture or ill-treatment....On 19 January, thousands of members of the Ethiopian Orthodox Church, the principal faith in Ethiopia, were singing and processing through central Addis Ababa as part of the Timket (Epiphany) church festival. At one point when police halted the procession, some of those in the procession began shouting for the release of opposition party leaders who have been charged with treason and other offences. Police reportedly opened fire with live ammunition on people suspected to be demonstrating support for the Coalition for Unity and Democracy (CUD) party." [10k]

- 6.171 The Human Rights Watch 'Supressing Dissent' Report of 10 May 2005 stated:

"Many local authorities and security officials in Oromia routinely commit various human rights violations against people they believe to be critical or unsupportive of the government. These abuses range from arbitrary detention and torture to long-term patterns of surveillance and harassment that isolate targeted individuals from their communities and destroy their livelihoods. In much of Oromia, these abuses are so widespread and so arbitrarily inflicted that

they have left many people afraid to engage in any kind of public discussion related to issues of concern to their communities.” [11g]

6.172 The Report further stated:

“Police officials in Oromia often subject individuals who are arrested on suspicion of OLF-related activities to torture and other forms of mistreatment. In some cases torture is applied in the course of interrogations, while in other cases it is used as a form of punishment. Human Rights Watch interviewed several former detainees who had been severely beaten in police custody in 2003 and 2004. One nineteen-year-old woman who had recently been expelled from school after arguing with another student was arrested in Agaro in August 2004 and accused of working with other detainees to sabotage the May elections.” [11g]

6.173 Adding to this the Report further stated:

“In other cases, Ethiopian military personnel have taken people accused of OLF involvement into their custody and subjected them to torture during interrogation in their own facilities. Human Rights Watch interviewed one man who had been detained in a military camp near Mendi in West Wollega in 2001. He was interrogated about his alleged involvement with the OLF and beaten severely by soldiers who nearly killed him when they fractured his skull with a blow from one of their rifles.” [11g]

6.174 The Human Rights Watch 2005 Report noted that:

“Police forces often use excessive force to quell peaceful demonstrations, with demonstrators subject to mass arrest and mistreatment. In January 2004, between 330 and 350 Addis Ababa University students peacefully protesting the arrest of eight other students two days earlier were themselves arrested by Federal Police. While in detention, the students were forced to run and crawl barefoot over sharp gravel for several hours at a time. Police have repeatedly employed similar methods of torture and yet are rarely held accountable for their excesses. Police also responded with force in the early months of 2004 to student demonstrations in secondary schools throughout Oromia. The Ethiopian Human Rights Council (EHRCO) reported that dozens of students were detained, some of whom reported being mistreated while in custody. One student was reportedly shot and killed by police during a student demonstration in Tikur Inchini.” [11b] (p1)

6.175 The Human Rights Watch Report of 2004 stated that In February 2003, at least 34 Lideta Church members were arrested while at a peaceful meeting. Security forces took them to a police training camp for two days where they were beaten and forced to run barefoot and to crawl on bare knees and elbows on gravel and sand for several hours each day. This form of abuse has been used repeatedly in mass arrests in past years.” [11c] (p2)

6.176 It further noted: “More severe torture remains a problem. The Ethiopian Human Rights Council (EHRCO) reported the death of Abera Hay while under police arrest. The police claimed that Abera hanged himself, but further examination of the body and photographs revealed a broken chin, missing teeth, swollen testicles, bruised ribs, and bleeding around the nose and mouth.” [11c] (p2)

- 6.177 Amnesty International, in its 2003 Report, stated that: "Torture of political prisoners, particularly those accused of links with armed opposition groups, continued to be frequently reported. Several women accused of involvement with such groups were reportedly raped. Courts rarely investigated defendants' allegations of torture." [10c] (p3)

NGOS IN ETHIOPIA

- 6.178 The US State Department's 2005 Human Rights Report noted that:

"A number of policy issues regarding nongovernmental organizations (NGOs) remained unresolved, including the right of NGOs to enter into formal network arrangements that would enable them to pool funds. The Ministry of Justice registers and licenses NGOs, and there was some improvement in transparency of the NGO registration process. However, the government continued to deny registration to the Human Rights League." [3a] (p11)

- 6.179 The Report continued:

"A number of domestic and international human rights groups generally operated with limited government restriction, investigating and publishing their findings on human rights cases. The government generally was distrustful and wary of domestic human rights groups and some international observers. After the November [2005] protests the government restricted human rights groups from visiting or investigating detention camps. In April [2005] the government expelled representatives of several foreign-based NGOs conducting electoral work." [3a] (p15)

- 6.180 Actionaid reported on 4 January 2006 that:

"The international development agency ActionAid has expressed its deep disappointment after an Ethiopian court today refused bail to two anti-poverty activists who were arrested in early November....ActionAid Ethiopia's policy head Daniel Bekele, and close partner Netsanet Demessie of the Organisation for Social Justice in Ethiopia (OSJE), were held for more than a month before they were charged with conspiring to overthrow the Ethiopian constitution. 125 other people, and four organisations, face this charge and up to six additional charges.... Daniel and Netsanet appear to have attracted the attention of the authorities by campaigning for civil society monitoring of the national elections in May, demanding amendments to a new Ethiopian law on non-governmental organisations, and helping to organise Ethiopia's part of the Global Call to Action against Poverty." [40a]

- 6.181 The International Rescue Committee website reports:

"The IRC currently works throughout Ethiopia in four refugee camps and with local populations affected by severe drought. In the camps, the IRC assists Sudanese refugees who fled the 21-year civil war in Sudan; Eritrean refugees who fled during the Ethiopia-Eritrea border war of 1998-2000; and Somali refugees, largely from the Mogadishu area, who are waiting for conditions to improve in the capital before returning home." [41a]

- 6.182 Human Rights Watch, in its 2003 Report, observed that:

“Two leading members of EHRCO who had been arrested and bailed in 2001, charged with inciting university students to riot, appeared in court periodically in 2002....The Ethiopian Women Lawyers Association, which like EHRCO had been temporarily shut down by the government in 2001, faced no overt government interference in 2002. The government continued to refuse to register the Human Rights League.” [11d] (p5)

- 6.183 The US Department of State’s 2005 Report further noted that: “The government continued to investigate the Human Rights League for alleged ties to the OLF. The league’s offices remained closed, and the government had not responded to its 1997 registration request by year’s end, despite a court order to do so.” [3a] (p15) “The government generally cooperated with international organizations like the UN and ICRC. ICRC access to prison and other detention facilities was restricted in the wake of election-related violence during the year.” [3a] (p15) “While the government is required by law to establish a human rights commission and an office of the ombudsman with the authority to receive and investigate complaints with respect to misadministration by executive branch offices, neither entity was fully operational by year’s end. The institutions had only limited resources. Neither organization had issued a report by year’s end [2005].” [3a] (p15)

- 6.184 The US Department of State’s 2004 Report further noted that:

“The Government permitted independent monitoring of prisons and police stations by the ICRC. Diplomatic missions were also granted access upon providing advance notification to prison officials. In June [2004], the African Commission on Human and Peoples’ Rights paid one of its occasional visits to prisons in various parts of the country. The ICRC generally had access to federal and regional prisons, civilian detention facilities, and police stations throughout the country during the year [2004], and conducted hundreds of visits involving thousands of detainees. The ICRC was allowed to meet regularly with prisoners without third parties being present. The ICRC received government permission to visit military detention facilities where suspected OLF fighters were detained. The ICRC also continued to visit civilian Eritrean nationals and Ethiopians of Eritrean origin detained on national security grounds.” [3b] (p5)

REFUGEES IN ETHIOPIA

- 6.185 The US Department of State’s 2005 Report further noted that:

“The law provides for the granting of asylum or refugee status in accordance with the 1951 UN Convention relating to the Status of Refugees and its 1967 protocol, and the government has established a system for providing protection to refugees. A national refugee law was passed in August 2004 and took effect in May [2005]. In practice the government provided protection against refoulement, the return of persons to a country where they feared persecution, and granted refugee status or asylum. The government generally cooperated with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and other humanitarian organizations in assisting refugees and returning citizens.” [3a] (p13)

- 6.186 The Report further noted that: “As of September [2005] the country hosted approximately 100,200 refugees, down from 121 thousand refugees at the end of 2004. Conditions at the 10 thousand-person capacity camp improved, and refugees subsequently had adequate health, education, water, and sanitation

facilities. Throughout the year there was a steady influx of Eritrean refugees at a monthly rate of 200 to 450 persons. In response the government and UNHCR worked to find a site for a new camp.” [3a] (p13) It also noted: “At year's end, approximately 32 thousand Nuer and Dinka refugees remained in Fugnido camp in the Gambella Region”. [3a] (p13)

6.187 UNHCR noted in its Global Appeal 2006 that: “In 2005, some 5,000 Eritreans sought asylum in Ethiopia, with the influx continuing at a rate of some 400 persons per month. Ethiopia had also received over 2,200 asylum-seekers from Southern Sudan and another 43 from other countries. During the course of the year, 594 refugees were resettled and almost 6,000 Somali refugees repatriated.” [42a]

6.188 The report continued:

“Due to the continuing influx from Eritrea, there are over 10,000 refugees in Shimelba, which is crowded and cannot be expanded. Joint efforts are under way with the Ethiopian authorities to identify a site where a new camp could be developed. In the east, the remaining 5,600 Somali refugees were repatriated to ‘Somaliland’ and the Aisha camp was closed in June 2005. Only one camp, with some 10,000 refugees from southern Somalia, will remain open. The situation in the eastern part of the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) continues to be tense and has provoked a significant increase in the number of Congolese asylum-seekers in Ethiopia. An increase in the arrival of Burundian asylum-seekers has also been noted.” [42a]

6.189 The US Committee for Refugees and Immigrants’ 2005 Report on Ethiopia noted that:

“The Refugee Proclamation, enacted in July, established the right to asylum and incorporated the provisions of the 1951 Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees (1951 Convention) and the 1969 African Refugee Convention. The Refugee Proclamation prohibited the Government from refusing entry to refugees or asylum seekers or expelling or returning them to any country where they would be at risk of persecution or harm. Many Somalis applied for legal resident status rather than recognition as refugees. The Government granted most of these applications.” [48a]

6.190 The Report further noted: “UNHCR closed the largest Somali refugee camp, Hartishek, as the last 719 occupants returned to Somaliland and aid agencies used the camp for IDPs. Some 2,000 Somali refugees also repatriated from Aisha camp.” [48a]

INTERNALLY DISPLACED PEOPLE (IDPs)

6.191 The US Committee for Refugees and Immigrants’ 2005 Report on Ethiopia noted that:

“In the Gambella region, violent conflict between ethnic Nuer and Anyuak resulted in the deaths of over 500 Anyuaks. A parliamentary commission found soldiers responsible for 13 Anyuak deaths. The Government announced in March 2005 that it would prosecute six of them. Despite periodic calm, both Nuer and Anyuak groups continued to fight, displacing tens of thousands, including about 5,000 Anyuaks who fled to Sudan.” [48a]

- 6.192 The Report added: “At year’s end, there were about 132,000 IDPs. In the Tigray region, about 62,000 were displaced during the Ethiopian-Eritrean conflict, and in Gambella, the recent violence displaced 51,000. In the east, IDPs lived with relatives, either in camps or ethnically similar communities.” [48a]
- 6.193 The Report further added: “About 15,000 people lived in the two main IDP camps in Fafen and Hartishek, where nearly half the residents did not receive water for three months. By April 2005, five percent of children under five at Hartishek were acutely malnourished and were dying at a rate of nearly 5 per 10,000 every day—more than twice the emergency mortality rate.” [48a]
- 6.194 *The Guardian* newspaper reported on 3 March 2004 that:
- “Ethiopia has begun a resettlement programme which aims to move up to a million people away from the country’s drought-stricken and over-worked central highlands to more fertile regions. Tens of thousands of families are to be moved before the rains come in May as the result of a pilot project last year, which the government says resulted in improved harvests. Critics say the lands available for resettlement – mainly along Ethiopia’s border with Sudan – are in areas notorious for diseases including malaria and kala azar or visceral leishmaniasis, a potentially fatal disease transmitted by sandflies...Over the next three years the government aims to relocate more than 2 million people, including the million who are being moved in the coming months.” [49a]

[Return to contents](#)

[Go to list of Sources](#)

Annex A: Chronology of events

- 1930s** Emperor Haile Selassie wrests power from old aristocracy and establishes modern autocracy. [1a] (p424)
- 1935** Italy invades Ethiopia. [1a] (p424)
- 1941** Allied forces end Italian occupation. [1a] (p424)
- 1952** Former Italian colony of Eritrea, which had become a UN mandated territory after World War II, federated with Ethiopia. [1a] (p424)
- 1962** Eritrea formally annexed by Ethiopia. [1a] (p424)
- 1970s** Increased Eritrean resistance to Ethiopian control by ELF and EPLF. [1a] (pp424-425)
- 1974** **September:** Calls for democratisation, army mutinies, Eritrean resistance, economic problems and famine culminate in overthrow of Emperor Haile Selassie in a military coup. Haile Selassie dies in military custody in 1975. The Dergue takes control of Ethiopia and establishes Provisional Military Government (PMG) under Lt-Gen Aman Andom. [1a] (p425)
November: Gen Aman assassinated. Fifty seven former civil and military officials, including two former Prime Ministers executed without trial. Brig-Gen Teferi Benti, Chairman of the Dergue, becomes Head of State. Major (later Lt-Col) Mengistu Haile Mariam one of two Vice-Chairman of the Dergue. [1a] (p425)
December: Dergue declares Ethiopia a socialist state. PMG replaced by Provisional Military Administrative Council (PMAC). [1a] (p425)
- 1975** Col Mengistu emerges as most influential member of the Dergue. PMAC embarks upon “Ethiopia Tikdem” (Ethiopia First) reforms – nationalisation of land, financial institutions and large firms, literacy drive and establishment of peasant co-operatives. Power struggles within Dergue, continuing into 1976, between supporters of MEISON and EPRP. Joint ELF/EPLF attack almost captures Eritrean capital Asmara. Severe retaliation taken against Eritrea. Tigrean support for Eritrea grows. TPLF formed. [1a] (p425), [1c] (p1566)
- 1977–**
78 TPLF grows stronger with EPLF support, defeating EPRP opponents in Tigre. [1a] (p425), [1c] (p1566)
- Mid-1977:** ‘Red Terror’ campaign turns on MEISON. EPRP and MEISON neutralised by end of 1978. Ethiopia under Mengistu moves increasingly closer to Soviet Union. [1a] (p425)
- 1977** **February:** Col Mengistu assumes control as Head of State and Chairman of PMAC. Gen Teferi Benti and five other Dergue members executed. ‘Red Terror’ campaign launched against Mengistu’s political and armed opponents, particularly the EPRP. Tens of thousands killed or tortured. [1a] (p425)
July: Somalia invades Ethiopia’s Ogaden region. [1a] (p425)

- 1978** **February:** Ethiopia counter-attacks with large-scale Soviet and Cuban support; Somalia withdraws in early 1978. [1a] (p425)
June: Large Ethiopian offensive launched in Eritrea; most towns recaptured and EPLF retreats to Nakfa. [1c] (p1566)
- 1979** Mengistu sets up Committee for Organising the Party of the Working People of Ethiopia (COPWE); all other political groups abolished. [1a] (p425)
- 1981** Civil war in Eritrea between ELF and EPLF. [1a] (p425)
- 1982** EPLF, with TPLF allies from Tigre, force ELF into exile in Sudan. [1a] (p425)
- 1984** Mengistu establishes the Worker's Party of Ethiopia (WPE) and the country is engulfed in famine
- 1989** **September:** TPLF establishes EPRDF as united front with Amhara-based EPDM. Unsuccessful peace negotiations between Government and EPLF. [1a] (p426)
- 1990** EPLF captures Masawa. Peace talks between Government and EPLF broken off. [1c] (p1566)
 Peace talks between Government and TPLF collapse. Socialism effectively abandoned by Mengistu Government; Moves towards market economy begin, but economy close to collapse. [1c] (p1566)
- 1991** **January:** EPRDF announces moderate, non-Marxist programme, which wins United States support. [1a] (p426)
21 May: Mengistu flees Ethiopia and goes into exile in Zimbabwe; [1a] (p426), [1c] (p1566)
28 May: EPRDF forces enter Addis Ababa, with public support of United States; EPRDF establishes interim Government. At the same time EPLF establishes provisional administration in Eritrea, effectively seceding from Ethiopia. [1c] (p1566)
July: National conference attended by 20 political groups establishes Transitional Government of Ethiopia (TGE); TPLF leader and EPRDF Chairman Meles Zenawi becomes President, with Tamirat Layne Prime Minister. Thirty two political groups represented on Council of Representatives, including the OLF, which also holds four Ministerial positions on Council of Ministers. [1a] (p426)
November: 14 new autonomous administrative regions established, broadly reflecting ethnic boundaries. [1c] (p1567)
- 1991–2** Relations between EPRDF and OLF deteriorate; clashes between rival EPRDF and OLF supporters in Oromo region. US and EPLF broker cease-fire between EPRDF and OLF supporters in April 1992. [1c] (p1567)
- 1992** **June:** OLF and other groups boycott regional elections. EPRDF and allies win over 90 per cent of votes cast. OLF withdraws from TGE and goes into armed opposition. OLF forces capture Asbe Teferi but government forces retake the town. [1c] (p1567)
- 1993** **April:** Referendum in Eritrea approves independence from Ethiopia. [1c] (p1567)

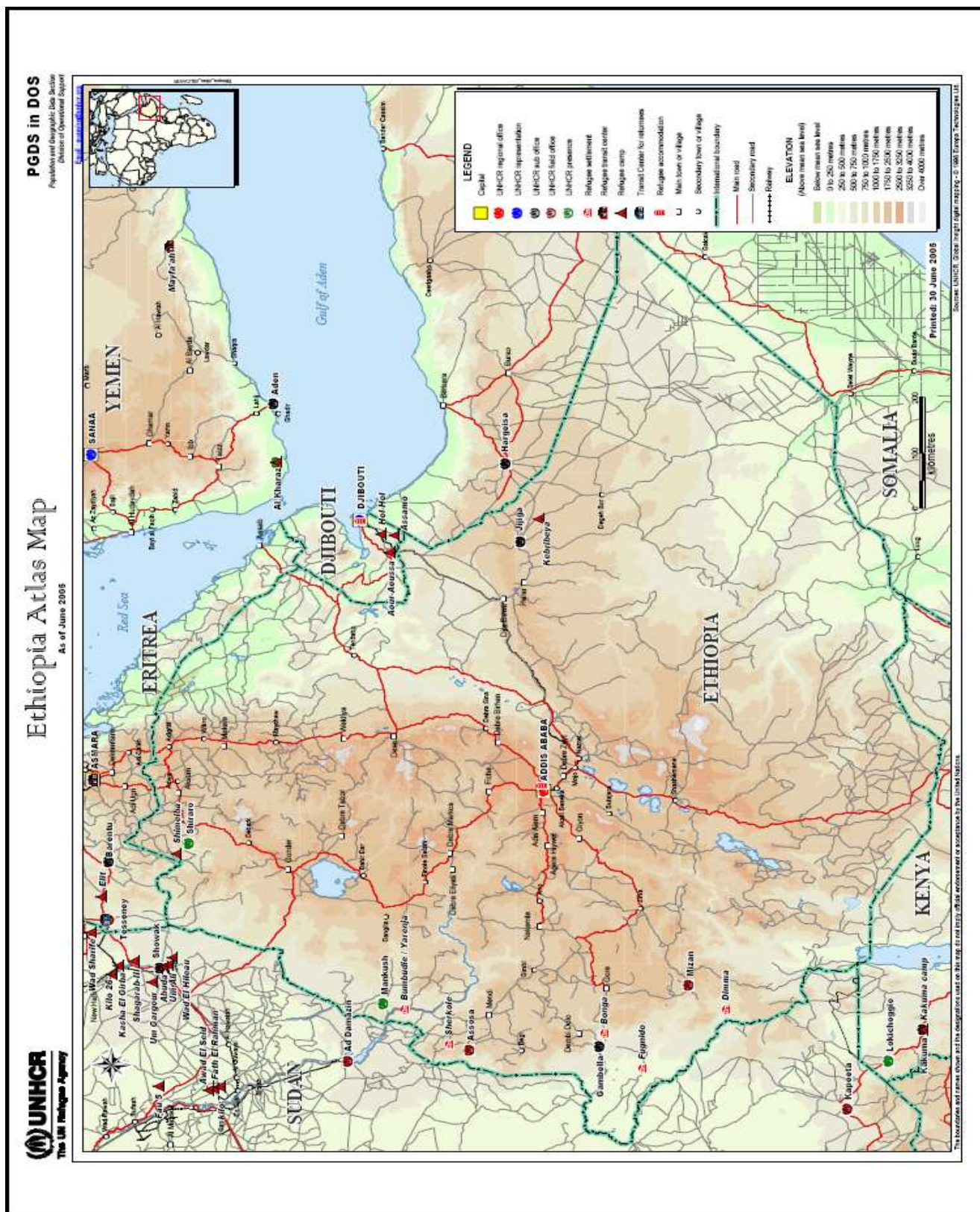
- 24 May:** Eritrea achieves formal independence, with recognition from Ethiopia. [1c] (p1567)
- 1994** **June:** EPRDF wins large majority of seats in elections to new Constituent Assembly. Polls boycotted by OLF, AAPO and CAFPPDE. [1c] (p1567)
October: Constituent Assembly inaugurated. [1c] (p1567)
December: Constituent Assembly approves new Constitution, establishing federal system of government with nine ethnically-based national states and the federal capital territory. Constituent Assembly replaced by bicameral Federal Parliamentary Assembly (FPA), made up of the Council of People's Representatives (CPR) and the Council of the Federation. [1a] (p427)
December: Trial of Dergue officials begins, including Mengistu. Trials held by SPO, created in 1992 to investigate and try cases of human rights abuses committed under the Mengistu administration. [1c] (p1567), [3i] (p10)
- 1995** **May:** Elections to the CPR and national state assemblies, boycotted by most opposition parties, produce landslide win for EPRDF and allies. Elections deemed to be neither free nor fair by international observers. [1a] (p427)
21 August: Legislative power transferred to new Federal Parliamentary Assembly. [1c] (p1567)
22 August: TGE wound up as new Constitution becomes effective. Country renamed the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia (FDRE). Dr Negasso Gidada, an ethnic Oromo, elected first President of FDRE by FPA. [1c] (p1567)
23 August: Meles Zenawi, President under TGE, elected first Prime Minister of FDRE by CPR. [1c] (p1567)
- 1996** Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Defence Tamirat Layne removed from office on suspicion of corruption. [1a] (p430)
- 1998** **May:** Border dispute between Ethiopia and Eritrea leads to armed clashes along the border, centred on the Badme area. [1a] (p431)
June: Eritrea aircraft bomb Mekele in northern Ethiopia. Ethiopia launches air attacks on Asmara airport in Eritrea. [1a] (p431)
June: Ethiopia and Eritrea accept a US-brokered agreement to halt air-strikes against each other. [1c] (p1569)
- 1999** **February:** Resumption of heavy fighting in border dispute with Eritrea. [1a] (p431)
- 2000** **May:** Ethiopia launches all-out offensive against Eritrea to recapture land occupied by Eritrea since May 1998; Ethiopia recaptures all occupied land by end May 2000. [1c] (p1570)
May: Ruling EPRDF coalition wins national elections but loses ground to opposition parties and independents in some regional elections. [1a] (p428)
June: Ethiopia and Eritrea sign ceasefire agreement; Eritrea agrees to UN border monitoring force within its territory. [1a] (p431)
12 December: Ethiopia and Eritrea sign peace agreement ending border war, which establishes commissions to mark the border exchange prisoners, to return displaced people and to hear compensation claims. [1c] (p1570)
- 2001** **22 February:** Ethiopia announces it has completed its troop withdrawal from Eritrea in accordance with a United Nations-sponsored agreement to end the border war. [1c] (p1570)

- March:** Meles Zenawi says he has thwarted an attempt to cause political upheaval by a dissident group in the dominant Tigre People's Liberation Front. [1c] (p1568)
- April:** Thousands of demonstrators clash with police in Addis Ababa in protest against police brutality and in support of calls for political and academic freedom. [1c] (p1568)
- May:** Intelligence and security chief Kifle Gebre-Medhin – a key ally of Prime Minister Meles Zenawi – assassinated as he entered an armed forces officers' club in Addis Ababa. [1c] (p1568)
- June:** Dr Negaso Gidada is expelled from the ruling coalition EPRDF. He continues to serve as Head of State until October 2001. [1a] (p413), [1c] (p1568), [9a]
- 2002** **March:** Clashes in Tepi involving members of two minority ethnic groups, the Sheko and Majenger
- April:** The Ethiopia Eritrea Boundary Commission announces the border decision awarding Badme to Eritrea. [1a] (p432)
- May:** Violence in Awassa. [1c] (p1568)
- June:** Police arrest several hundred students, teachers, and others whom it accuses of being supporters of OLF. [11d] (p2)
- 2003** **March:** Ethiopia voices its opposition to the Boundary Commission ruling. [1a] (p432), [1c] (p1570)
- December:** Ethnic violence in Gambella region targets the Anuak. [3b] (pp19-20)
- 2004** **January:** Mass arrests of university students in the capital, Addis Ababa as Oromo students protest about the government decision to transfer the regional state capital of Oromiya from Addis Ababa to Adama. [10]
- November:** Ethiopia accepts "in principle" a long-disputed ruling on its border with Eritrea but still thinks it is illegal and unjust. [7v]
- 2005** **May:** Prime Minister Meles Zamawi accuses opposition parties of fomenting ethnic hatred ahead of May general elections. [7d]
- 15 May:** Ethiopia holds general elections. [7w]
- May:** Ethiopia's national election board investigates allegations of fraud in 15 May general elections. [7x]
- June:** Over 30 killed and 3000 people arrested in post election related violence. [7f]
- November:** Over 40 protesters killed and thousands arrested, including leading opposition figures, in government crack down.
- December:** Ethiopian prosecutors charge 131 politicians, journalists and civil society members, who were detained in a crackdown on opposition groups in early November. (IRIN) [9af]

[Return to contents](#)

[Go to list of Sources](#)

Annex B: Map of Ethiopia



[44a]

Annex C: Results of the General Election held on 15 May 2005

Party	Seats
Ethiopian People's Revolutionary Democratic Front (EPRDF)	327
Coalition for Unity and Democracy (CUD)	109
The United Ethiopian Democratic Forces (UEDF)	52
Oromo Federalist Democratic Movement (OFDM)	11
Benishangul Gumuz People's Democratic Unity Front (BGPDUF)	8
Afar National Democratic Party (ANDP)	8
Gambela People's Democratic Movement (GPDM)	3
Sheko and Mezenger People's Democratic United Organization (SMPDUO)	1
Somali People's Democratic Party (SPDP)	23
Hareri National League (HNL)	1
Argoba Nationality Democratic Organization (ANDO)	1
Independent	1
Total out of 547 seats	545

[14a]

Seats by Region

Regions	House of People's Representatives	Regional Council / City Administration
Tigray	38	152
Afar	8	87
Amhara	138	294
Oromia	178	537
Somali	23	147
Benshangul Gumuz	9	99
Southern Nations, Nationalities and Peoples (SNNP)	123	348
Gambela	3	82
Harari	2	36
Diredawa	2	-
Addis Ababa	23	138
Total Seats	547	1920

[14a]

[Return to contents](#)
[Go to list of Sources](#)

Annex D: List of registered political parties

The parties that won parliamentary seats in their own right or as part of a bigger coalition are shown in bold

Full name	Abbreviation
All Amhara People's Organization (member of UEDF)	AAPO
All Ethiopian Democratic Party.....	AEDP
All Ethiopia Unity Party (CUD member)	AEUP
Afar Liberation Front Party.....	ALFP
Amhara National Democratic Movement (EPRDF member)	ANDM
Argoba Nationality Democratic Organization.....	ANDO
Afar National Democratic Party	ANDP
Argoba People's Democratic Movement	APDM
Agew Peoples' Democratic Movement.....	APDM
Agnwaha People's Democratic Organization	APDO
Afar Revolutionary Democratic Unity Front	ARDUF
Benishangul-Gumuz Peoples' Democratic Unity Front	BGPDUF
Baherwork Mesmes Nationality Democratic Unity Organization.....	BMNDUO
Baher Work Mesmes People's Democratic Organization	BWMPDO
Coalition for Unity and Democracy	CUD
Denta, Debamo, Kitchenchala Democratic Organization.....	DDKDO
Dube and Degene Nationality Democratic Party	DDNDP
Donga People's Democratic Organization.....	DPDO
Dil Wabi People's Democratic Movement	DWPDM
Ethiopian Berta People's Democratic Organization.....	EBPDO
Ethiopian Democratic League (CUD member)	EDL
Ethiopian Democratic Unity Party (UEDF member)	EDUP
Ethiopian National Democratic Party.....	ENDP
Ethiopian National Unity Party	ENUP
Ethiopia Pan Africanist party	EPAFP
Endegagene People's Democratic Movement	EPDM
Ethiopian Peace and Democratic Party.....	EPDP
Ethiopian People's Revolutionary Democratic Front	EPRDF
Ethiopian Social Democratic Federal Party	ESDFP
Ethiopians' Unity Democratic Organization	EUDO
Gamo Democratic Union.....	GDU
Gamo-Gofa People's Democracy Unity	G-GPDU
Gurage People's Democratic Front.....	GPDF
Gambela People's Democratic Movement	GPDM
Gedeo People's Democratic Organization	GPDO
Geda System Advancement Party	GSAP
Hadiya Nation Democratic Organization	HNDO
Hareri National League	HNL
Harari People Democratic Party.....	HPDP
Independent.....	Independent
The Joint Political Forum	JPF
Kembata People's Congress.....	KPC
Konso People's Democratic Union.....	KPDU
The Mixed Nations, Nationality One Ethiopia Democratic Party	MNNOEDP
Mezenger People's Democratic Organization	MPDO
Nuwer People's Democratic Organization.....	NPDO
Oromo Abbo Liberation Front.....	OALF

Oromo Federalist Democratic Movement	OFDM
Oromia Liberation National Party	OLNP
Oromo Liberation Unity Front.....	OLUF
Oromo National Congress (UEDF member).....	ONC
Oida Nationality Democratic Organization.....	ONDO
Oromo People's Democratic Organization (EPRDF member).....	OPDO
Omo People's Democratic Union	OPDU
Rainbow Ethiopia: Movement for Democracy and Social Justice..	REMDSJ
(CUD member)	
Somali Democratic Alliance Forces.....	SDAF
Southern Ethiopia People's Democratic Coalition	SEPDC
(UEDF member)	
Southern Ethiopia People's Democratic Movement.....	SEPDM
(EPRDF member)	
Sodo Gordena People's Democratic Organization	SGPDO
Sidama Hadicho People's Democratic Organization	SHPDO
Sidama Liberation Movement	SLM
Sheko and Mezenger People's Democratic Unity Organization	SMPDUO
Selte Nationality Democratic Movement.....	SNDM
Somali People's Democratic Party	SPDP
Selti People's Democratic Unity Party	SPDUP
Somali People's Liberation Front Party	SPLFP
Tembaro People's Democratic Unity	TPDU
Tigrayan People's Liberation Front (member of EPRDF).....	TPLF
Tigri Worgi Nationality Democratic Unity Party.....	TWNDUP
United Ethiopian Democratic Force	UEDF
UEDP-MEDHIN (member of CUD)	UEDP-MEDHIN
Unity of Southern Ethiopia Democratic Forces.....	USEDF
Wolayata Deria Yemeya	WDY
Wolayata People's Democratic Front	WPDF
Western Somali Democratic Party	WSDP
Yem Nationality Democratic Movement	YNDM
Zai People's Democratic Organization	ZPDO
Zeisei People's Democratic Organization.....	ZPDO

[14b]

Annex E: Major Political Organisations

All-Ethiopian Unity Party (AEUP)

Faction of the older All-Amhara People's Organization (AAPO). President Hailu Shawel. [1a] (p444) **Leading member of the CUD coalition of which Hailu Shawel is also President.**

Al-Ittihad al-Islamia (Islamic Union Party)

Somalia-based armed opposition group seeking self-determination for the Somali-populated Ogaden district. [1a] (p427)

All-Amhara People's Organization (AAPO)

In August 2002 most of AAPO became the All-Ethiopian Unity Party (AEUP) but some elements remained and joined the UEDF opposition alliance. [1a] (p444), [28] (p168)

Amhara National Democratic Movement (ANDM)

Represents the Amhara people within the EPRDF party; formerly the Ethiopian People's Democratic Movement (EPDM); adopted present name in 1994; Secretary-General Tefera Walwa. [1a] (p444)

Council of Alternative Forces for Peace and Democracy in Ethiopia (CAFPDE)

Formed 1993, broad based coalition of groups opposed to the EPRDF. Chair Dr Beyene Petros (later Chair of SEPDC). [1a] (p444), [28] (p168)

Eritrean People's Liberation Front (EPLF)

Fought in alliance with TPLF/EPRDF against Mengistu Government; formed provisional administration of Eritrea May 1991 and Government of independent Eritrea May 1993. [1a] (pp425-426)

Ethiopian Democratic Unity Party (EDUP)

Replaced the WPE in March 1990 and abandoned the WPE's reliance on Marxist-Leninist doctrine. Leader was Ras Mengesha. Joined EDP in July 2003 to create UEDP. [1a] (p444) [1b] (p426)

Ethiopian People's Democratic Movement (EPDM)

See ANDM. [1a] (p444)

Ethiopian People's Revolutionary Democratic Front (EPRDF)

Formed 1989 by the TPLF as an alliance of insurgent groups. Ousted Mengistu Government May 1991 in alliance with EPLF. Dominant party in the TGE from July 1991 onwards. Present governing party of the FDRE. Leader Prime Minister Meles Zenawi. The EPRDF comprises the TPLF, ANDM, OPDO and SEPDM. [1a] (p444 & p426)

Ethiopian People's Revolutionary Party (EPRP)

See COEDF. [1a] (p444)

Ethiopian Somali Democratic League (ESDL)

Formed 1994 by the merger of 11 Ethiopian Somali organizations. Merged with other Somali groups June 1998 to form the Somali People's Democratic Party (SPDP) – see SPDP. [1a] (p444)

Gambela People's Democratic Movement (GPDM)

Pro-government group based in the Gambela region. Chair Akilo Nigilio. [1a] (p444)

Hadiya National Democratic Organization (HNDO)

Founded in 1991, a regionally-based party with wider alliances. Won five seats in the federal House of People's Representatives in 2000. Leader Beyene Petros. Part of the Southern Ethiopia People's Democratic Coalition (SEPDC) [28] (p169)

Islamic Unity Party

See al-Ittihad al-Islamia. [1a] (p427)

MEISON

See COEDF. [1a] (p444)

Ogaden National Liberation Front (ONLF)

A party based in Somali state. The OLF and the ONLF signed a military co-operation agreement in July 1996. They demand greater autonomy. The ONLF received support from another Somali organisation, the Islamic Union Party (al-Ittihad al-Islam), which has been fighting for an Islamic state in Somalia. [1a] (p427)

Oromo Liberation Front (OLF)

Clashes between members of the OLF and members of the OPDO (an EPRDF member-party) during the run-up to elections led to a final break with the EPRDF in 1992, after which the OLF went into armed opposition. In alliance with armed wing of the ONLF from July 1996. They advocate self-determination for the Oromo People and the use of Oromo language and culture. Member of UOLF. Chairman Daoud Ibsa Gudina. [28] (p169), [1a] (p425)

Oromo National Congress (ONC)

Founded in 1996. Exists to oppose the OPDO through legitimate electoral channels. Member of UEDF. President Merera Gudina. [28] (p169), [1a] (p444)

Oromo People's Democratic Organization (OPDO)

Formed 1990 by the TPLF to campaign in Oromo areas; opposed to the OLF. Represents the Oromo within the ruling EPRDF. Leader Abedula Gemedo. [1a] (p444)

Rainbow Ethiopia

Leader Berhanu Nega. Member of the CUD opposition alliance.

Somali People's Democratic Party (SPDP)

Formed in 1998 by merger of elements of the Ogaden National Liberation Front (ONLF) and the Ethiopian Somali Democratic League (ESDL Secretary-General Shu'abi Ibrahim. [1a] (p444)

Southern Ethiopian People's Democratic Coalition (SEPDC)

Opposition alliance; Chair Dr Beyene Petros. [1a] (p444) Leading member of UEDF opposition coalition. Evolved from the Southern Ethiopian People's Democratic Union (SEPDU), an alliance formed in 1992 by 10 ethnically-based political groups in Southern Ethiopia represented in the Council of Representatives. [1a] (p444)

Southern Ethiopian People's Democratic Movement (SEPDM)

Represents the people of the Southern Region within the ruling EPRDF. Evolved from the Ethiopian National Democratic Party (ENDP), formed 1994 by the merger of five

pro-government organisations with members in the Council of Representatives: the Ethiopian Democratic Organization, the Ethiopian Democratic Organization Coalition, the Gurage People's Democratic Front, the Kembata People's Congress and the Wolaita People's Democratic Front. [1a] (p444)

Tigray People's Liberation Front (TPLF)

Formed 1975. Dominant group within the EPRDF, formed in 1989. Chair Prime Minister Meles Zenawi. Vice Chair Seyoum Mesfin. [1a] (p444), [28] (p170)

United Ethiopian Democratic Forces (UEDF)

Formed August 2003 as a coalition of 15 opposition parties to challenge the current Government in the 2005 elections. [14g]

United Ethiopian Democratic Party-Medhin (UEDP-Medhin)

Originally formed in 1998 as the Ethiopian Democratic Party; Secretary General Lidetu Ayalew. Joined with **EDUP** in July 2003 to create UEDP. [1a] [p444] [28] (p169)
Subsequently merged with Medhin party to form UEDP-Medhin.
Head is Dr Admasu Gebeyehu. Member of the CUD opposition alliance. [1a] (p444)

Workers' Party of Ethiopia (WPE)

Formed 1984 by Mengistu; renamed the EDUP in March 1990; the sole legal party until May 1991. [1a] (p425), [1b] (p426)

Annex F: Prominent People*

Abadula Gemada

Minister of Defence and Chairman of the OPDO. [1a] (p430 & pp443-444)

Adisu Legeso

Deputy Prime Minister and Rural Development Minister. [1a] (p443)

Dr **Admasu** Gebeyehu

Head of the UEDP. [1a] (p444)

Ismail **Ali** Sirro

Leader of the APDO. [1a] (p444)

Dr **Beyene** Petros

Chairman of UEDF opposition alliance. Also of CAFPDE and the SEPDC; President of the Hadiya National Democratic Organization (HNDO). Dr Beyene is a Member of the Ethiopian Parliament and a Professor at Addis Ababa University. 1[1a] (p444) [16] (p169)

Daoud Ibsa Gudina

Chairman of the OLF. [16] (p169)

Fekadu Gedamu

Chairman of the ENDP. [1a] (p444)

Girma Wolde Giorgis

Current Ethiopian President; ethnic Oromo. [1a] (p430 & p443)

Hailu Shawel

President of AEUP and Head of the CUD opposition alliance. [1a] (p444)

Meles Zenawi

TPLF leader and Chairman of the EPRDF; President of Ethiopia July 1991-August 1995; Prime Minister of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia August 1995 to the present. [1a] (p443 & p444)

Emperor **Menelik**

Modernising and unifying ruler in late nineteenth century; died 1913. Founded Addis Ababa in the late 1880s, defeated the Italians in 1896. [1a] (p424)

Lt-Col **Mengistu** Haile Mariam (Col **Mengistu**)

Assumed power February 1977; Secretary-General of the WPE from 1984; President of the People's Democratic Republic of Ethiopia from 1977 until he fled in May 1991; lives in exile in Zimbabwe. [1c] (p1566)

Merera Gudina

President of ONC. [1a] (p444)

Mohamoud Dirir Gheddi

Chair of the SPDP. [1a] (p444)

Dr **Negasso** Gidada

President of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia from 1995 until October 2001; Independent member of House of Representatives since 2005. [9]

Emperor **Haile Selassie**

Regent 1916; King 1928; Emperor from 1930 until deposed in 1974; died in military custody 1975. [1c] (p1566)

Tamirat Layne

Prime Minister of the Federal Republic of Ethiopia in 1991; Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Defence in 1996. Dismissed and detained in 1996 and tried on corruption charges. Sentenced to 18 years imprisonment in 2000. [1b] (p410 & p413)

Dr **Taye** Woldesemayat

Secretary-General of the Ethiopian Teachers' Association; arrested June 1996 and held in detention until his release in May 2002. [1a] (p428), [1c] (p1567)

Tefera Walwa

Secretary-General of the EPRDF-allied ANDM. [1a] (p444)

* It is customary for people in Ethiopia and Eritrea to be addressed by the first name. This is reflected in this list and at times in the text of this Report.

Annex G: List of Abbreviations

AI	Amnesty International
CEDAW	Committee on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women
CPJ	Committee to Protect Journalists
EU	European Union
EBRD	European Bank for Reconstruction and Development
FCO	Foreign and Commonwealth Office (UK)
FGM	Female Genital Mutilation
FH	Freedom House
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
HIV/AIDS	Human Immunodeficiency Virus/Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome
HRW	Human Rights Watch
IAG	Illegal Armed Group
ICG	International Crisis Group
ICRC	International Committee for Red Cross
IDP	Internally Displaced Person
IFRC	International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies
IMF	International Monetary Fund
IOM	International Organisation for Migration
MSF	Médecins sans Frontières
NA	Northern Alliance
NATO	North Atlantic Treaty Organisation
NGO	Non-Governmental Organisation
OCHA	Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs
ODIHR	Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights
ODPR	Office for Displaced Persons and Refugees
OECD	Organization of Economic Cooperation and Development
OHCHR	Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights
OSCE	Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe
STD	Sexually Transmitted Disease
STC	Save The Children
TB	Tuberculosis
TI	Transparency International
UN	United Nations
UNAIDS	Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
UNHCHR	United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights
UNHCR	United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
UNODC	United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
USSD	United States State Department
WFP	World Food Programme
WHO	World Health Organization

Annex H: List of source material

The Home Office is not responsible for the content of external websites

- [1] **Europa Publications:**
- a Africa South of the Sahara 2005
 - b Africa South of the Sahara 2004
 - c Europa World Yearbook 2003, 44th Edition, Volume 1, Europa Publications Ltd, London.
- Europaworld.com 2005** <http://europaworld.com/pub/>
- d Judicial System: (Accessed 30 January 2006)
 - e Political Parties: Coalition for Unity and Democracy (CUD) (Accessed 15 December 2005)
- [2] **CIA Factbook – Online updated 1 November 2005 (Accessed 23 November 2005)**
<http://www.cia.gov/cia/publications/factbook/index.html>
- [3] **United States Department of State Reports** <http://www.state.gov/>
- a Report on Human Rights Practices; Ethiopia – Report for 2005 dated March 2006.
 - b Report on Human Rights Practices; Ethiopia – Report for 2004 dated February 2005.
 - c Report on Human Rights Practices; Ethiopia – Report for 2003 dated February 2004.
 - d Report on Human Rights Practices; Ethiopia – Report for 2002 dated March 2003.
 - e Background Note – Ethiopia: dated January 2006
 - f Report on Religious Freedom; Ethiopia – Report for 2005 dated November 2005
 - g Report on Religious Freedom; Ethiopia – Report for 2004 dated September 2004
 - h Report on Religious Freedom; Ethiopia – Report for 2003 dated December 2003
 - i Report on Human Rights Practices; Ethiopia – Report for 2001 dated March 2002
- [4] **Ethiopian Constitution**
http://www.civicwebs.com/cwvlib/constitutions/ethiopia/constitution_1994.htm
- [5] **Ethiopian Embassy** <http://www.ethioembassy.org.uk/index.htm>
- a Climate
 - b *Festivals and Holidays*
 - c *Health*
- [6] **Foreign and Commonwealth Office** <http://www.fco.gov.uk>
- a Country Profile: Ethiopia
- [7] **British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC) News Online** <http://news.bbc.co.uk/>
- a *Eritrean PoWs return home*, report dated 29 November 2002
 - b *Horn of Africa 'crisis', UN warns*, report dated 16 December 2005
 - c *'Abuses' in Ethiopia's campaign*, report dated 27 April 2005
 - d *Ethiopia PM warns of 'hate' poll*, report dated 6 May 2005
 - e *Ethiopia head defends crackdown*, report dated 11 June 2005

- f *Thousands arrested in Ethiopia*, report dated 13 June 2005
- g *Deal to end Ethiopia poll crises*, report dated 14 June 2005
- h *Ethiopia 'frees poll protesters'*, report dated 24 June 2005
- l *Country profile: Ethiopia* (updated 2 November 2005), Accessed 12 December 2005
- j *Ethiopia prisoners' hunger strike*, report dated 28 November 2005
- k *Languishing in an Addis embassy*, report dated 28 December 2005
- l *Execution for Ethiopia torturers*, report dated 11 August 2005
- m *Ethiopians given death sentences*, report dated 21 October 2004
- n *Ethiopia plans internet expansion*, report dated 6 April 2005
- o *Israel to take all Ethiopian Jews*, report dated 9 January 2004
- p *Israel to accept more Ethiopian Jews*, report dated 16 February 2003
- q *Ethiopia Jews go on hunger strike*, report dated 20 September 2005
- r *Treason charges filed in Ethiopia*, report dated 17 December 2005
- s *'Lawyers denied in Ethiopia Case'*, report dated 28 December 2005
- t *Should the Youth get involved in politics?*, report dated 10 June 2005
- u *Ethiopia 'faces new rebellion'*, report dated 12 February 2004
- v *Ethiopia backs down over border*, report dated 25 November 2004
- w *Ethiopian flock to cast ballots*, report dated 15 May 2005
- x *Ethiopia probes 'huge poll fraud'*, report dated 20 May 2005
- y *Arrests for Ethiopia poll protest*, report dated 6 June 2005

[8] Ethiopian News Agency <http://www.ena.gov.et/>

- a *Recently issued directive will benefit only Eritreans who lived in Ethiopia permanently; authority*, report dated 22 January 2004

[9] Integrated Regional Information Networks (IRIN) <http://www.irinnews.org/>

- a *Ethiopia-Eritrea: Boarder dispute remains major challenge*, report dated 5 January 2005
- b *Ethiopia-Eritrea: Security Council extends UNMEE mandate by six months*, report dated 15 March 2005
- c *Eritrea-Ethiopia: Disputed border still tense, says UNMEE*, report dated 2 February 2006
- d *Ethiopia: Thousands to be re-registered to vote*, report dated 2 May 2005
- e *Ethiopia: Opposition complains of abuses ahead of elections*, report dated 28 April 2005
- f *Ethiopia: Huge turnout for federal elections*, report dated 16 May 2005
- g *Ethiopia: Opposition, now claims election victory*, report dated 19 May 2005
- h *Ethiopia: Opposition party threatens to boycott parliament*, report dated 24 May 2005
- i *Ethiopia: CUD leaders, editors to face treason charges*, report dated 10 November 2005
- j *Ethiopia: Over 11,000 political prisoners freed*, report dated 16 January 2006
- k *Ethiopia: EC commissioner meets jailed opposition activists*, report dated 20 February 2006
- l *Ethiopia: New opposition coalition seeks renegotiation" of border ruling*, report dated 12 August 2003
- m *Ethiopia: Opposition party threatens to boycott parliament*, report dated 24 May 2005
- n *Ethiopia: Main opposition party calls for dialogue*, report dated 8 December 2005
- o *Ethiopia: New opposition leader pledges land reform*, report dated 14 July 2003

- p *Ethiopia: Rights organisation condemns arrests of Oromo students*, report dated 3 March 2004
- q *Ethiopia: Former regime officials plead for clemency*, report dated 1 March 2004
- r *Ethiopia: Red Cross trains prison officials*, report dated 20 October 2003
- s *Ethiopia: First ever cardiac centre to be built*, report dated 11 August 2003
- t *Ethiopia: Feature – Anti-Aids drugs offer little hope*, report dated 4 August 2003
- u *Ethiopia: Government rejects criticism over media*, report dated 12 July 2005
- v *Ethiopia: Ban on media association lifted*, report dated 7 March 2005
- w *Ethiopia: Clergymen, demonstrators reportedly beaten up by police*, report dated 23 January 2003
- x *Ethiopia: Rights organisation condemns arrests of Oromo Students*, report dated 3 March 2004
- y *Ethiopia: Campaign launched against child trafficking*, report dated 20 October 2005
- z *Ethiopia: A centre for helping victims of trafficking opens*, report dated 29 June 2004
- aa *Ethiopia-Eritrea: ICRC on need for voluntary repatriation*, report dated 12 July 2001
- ab *Ethiopia: US \$1.5 million ADB grant for promotion of women's rights*, report dated 18 May 2004
- ac *Ethiopia: Education key to fighting child trafficking, says UNICEF*, report dated 13 June 2003
- ad *Ethiopia: Coping with increasing orphan numbers through adoption*, report dated 10 January 2005
- ae *Ethiopia: Hundreds of street kids reportedly dumped in forest*, report dated 23 July 2002
- af *ETHIOPIA: Charges filed against opposition activists*, report dated 19 December 2005
- ag *Ethiopia-Eritrea: Annan urges quick demarcation of disputed border*, report dated 14 March 2006
- ah *Ethiopia: Main opposition coalition merges to form party*, report dated 29 September 2005
- ai *Ethiopia: Campaign launched against child trafficking*, report dated 20 October 2005
- aj *Ethiopia: President expelled from ruling party*, report dated 25 June 2001

[10] Amnesty International <http://www.amnesty.org.uk/>

- a Amnesty International Report on Ethiopia 2005 (covers 2004)
- b Amnesty International Report on Ethiopia 2004 (covers 2003)
- c Amnesty International Report on Ethiopia 2003 (covers 2002)
- d *Amnesty International witnesses cruelty of mass deportation*, report dated 29 January 1999
- e Amnesty International Report on; *The 15 May 2005 elections and human rights recommendations to the government, election observers and political parties 2003* (Accessed 13 July 2005)
- f *Ethiopia: Fear of torture / Prisoners of Conscience*, report dated 7 June 2005
- g *Ethiopia: Students at risk of torture as crisis deepens*, report dated 9 June 2005
- h *Ethiopia: Fear of torture / Prisoners of Conscience*, report dated 28 July 2005

- l Ethiopia: Fear of torture / Prisoners of Conscience, report dated 30 September 2005
 - j Ethiopia: Recent arrests of opposition leaders and police killings of 46 demonstrations, report dated 11 November 2005
 - k Ethiopia: 24 people arrested during Ethiopian Orthodox Church processions, report dated 3 February 2006
 - l Arbitrary detention / Fear of ill-treatment, report dated 23 January 2004
- [11] **Human Rights Watch** <http://www.hrw.org/>
- a World Report 2006, (covers 2005) Ethiopia-Human Rights Developments
 - b World Report 2005, (covers 2004) Ethiopia-Human Rights Developments
 - c World Report 2004, (covers 2003) Ethiopia-Human Rights Developments
 - d World Report 2003, (covers 2002) Ethiopia-Human Rights Developments
 - e World Report 2002, (covers 2001) Ethiopia-Human Rights Developments
 - f Ethiopia: Hidden Crackdown in Rural Areas, report dated 13 January 2006
 - g Suppressing Dissent: Human Rights Abuses and Political Repression in Ethiopia's Oromia Region, report dated 10 May 2005
- [12] **The European Union Election Observatory Mission – Final Report**
(Accessed 14 March 2006)
http://www.ethiomeia.com/courier/eu_observers_report.pdf
- [13] **The AFRICA GUIDE.COM** <http://www.africaquide.com>
- a African people and culture: Tribes and people groups – Amhara
(Accessed 28 March 2006)
 - b African people and culture: Tribes and people groups – Afar
(Accessed 28 March 2006)
- [14] **National Electoral Board of Ethiopia (NEBE)**
<http://www.electionsethiopia.org/>
- a *Results of May 2005 Election:* (Accessed 6 September 2005)
 - b *List of Registered Political Parties:* (Accessed August 2005)
- [15] **Africa Confidential** <http://www.africa-confidential.com/>
- a *Transition starts here*, article dated 18 November 2005
- [16] **Political Parties of the World – 5th Edition – compiled/edited by Alan J Day, Richard German and John Campbell. Updated January 2002**
(Accessed December 2005)
- [17] **News 24.com** <http://www.news24.com/News24/Home/>
- a *Ethiopia nabs 'coup plotters'*, report dated 19 October 2005
 - b *Death for Derg torturers*, report dated 11 August 2005
- [18] **Sudan Tribune** www.sudantribune.com
- a *Ethiopia's opposition CUD will not administrate the capital – official*, report dated 16 January 2006
- [19] **Oromo Federalist Democratic Movement (OFDM)**
<http://www.wafido.org/>
- [20] **Oromo Liberation Front (OLF)** <http://www.oromoliberationfront.org/>
- a OLF Mission
 - b Oromia Briefs

- [21] **Ethiopian People's Revolutionary Party (EPRP)** [HTTP://WWW.EPRP.COM/](http://www.eprp.com/)
a EPRP Political Program
- [22] **Hands Off Cain** <http://www.handsoffcain.org/1>
a Ethiopia: Figure in Ethiopia 'Red Terror' sentenced to death, report dated 9 December 2005
b *Ethiopia voted against the resolution on the death penalty at the 61st UN Commission on Human Rights*, report dated 20 April 2005
- [23] **War Resisters International 1998 Ethiopia Report.** (Accessed 31 January 2006)
<http://www.wri-irg.org/from-off.htm>
- [24] **Child Soldiers' global Report 2004: Ethiopia** (Accessed 9 August 2005)
<http://www.child-soldiers.org/>
- [25] **Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF)** <http://www.msf.org>
a MSF leads a campaign to vaccinate 100,000 people in southern Ethiopia , report dated 20 February 2006
b Treating TB patients in the middle of Ethiopia's desert, report dated 5 December 2005
c Kala azar complicates HIV/AIDS treatment in Humera, Ethiopia, report dated 28 October 2005
d Kala azar outbreak in Ethiopia as rainy season begins, report dated 27 June 2005
e Start of first free AIDS treatment programme in Ethiopia, report dated 27 January 2004
- [26] **World Health Organization** <http://www.who.int/en/>
a 2005 National Immunization, (Accessed 24 January 2006)
b Three wild poliovirus cases identified in East Hareghe zone, (Accessed 25 January 2006)
c Mental health and substance abuse, (Accessed 24 January 2006)
d HIV/AIDS, (Accessed 24 January 2006)
e Ethiopia: Summary Country Profile for HIV/AIDS Treatment Scale-up, (Accessed 24 January 2006)
f Establishment of youth-friendly health and recreation center, (Accessed 27 January 2006)
g WHO Country Cooperation Strategy: Ethiopia, 2000-2005
- [27] **ORBIS saving sight worldwide** <http://www.orbis.org/bins/index.asp>
a *Ethiopia overview* (Accessed 25 January 2006)
b *Fighting Blindness with Zithromax*, (Accessed 25 January 2006)
- [28] **UNICEF** <http://www.unicef.org/index.html>
a *UNICEF funds medical university training for treatment of severe acute malnutrition*, report dated 11 May 2004
b Ethiopia: Campaign launched against child trafficking, report dated 2 October 2005
- [29] **Mental Health Society – Ethiopia** <http://www.mhse.org/>
a Establishment of Recreational & Rehabilitation Center, article dated 31 March 2005
b At a glance: Ethiopia (Accessed 30 January 2006)

- [30] **United States Agency for International Development (USAID)**
<http://www.usaid.gov/>
- a The Human and Financial Resource Requirements for Scaling up HIV/AIDS Services in Ethiopia, Report dated February 2005 (Accessed February 2006)
- [31] **Social Security Online** <http://www.ssa.gov/>
Social Security Programmes Throughout the World: Africa 2005 (Accessed March 2006)
- [32] **Committee to Protect Journalists (CPJ)**
<http://www.cpj.org/attacks04/africa04/ethiopia.html>
- a Two journalists held as anti-government protests spread, report dated 4 November 2005
 - b Ethiopians face antistate charges; VOA staffers among those named, report dated 21 December 2005
 - c *Attacks on the Press 2004: Ethiopia* (Accessed 31 January 2005)
 - d *Internet reporter held without charge in Ethiopia*, report dated 30 January 2006
- [33] **Languages of the World – by Kenneth Katzner** (Accessed 12 February 2006)
- [34] **World Directory of Minorities, Edited by Minority Rights Group International. 1997.** (Accessed 8 February 2006)
- [35] **Addis Tribune** <http://www.addistribune.com/>
- a Violence Draws Attention to Somalis' Plight , report dated 5 August 2005
- [36] **Walta Information Centre** <http://www.waltainfo.com/>
- a *Authority issues directives concerning Eritreans residing in Ethiopia*, report dated 20 January 2004
- [37] **The International Committee of the Red Cross** <http://www.icrc.org/>
- a ICRC News – *Ethiopian civilians and 10 Eritrean civilians repatriated* – 25 February 2005
 - b ICRC News – *200 Ethiopians repatriated* – 3 December 2004
- [38] **World Organisation Against Torture– OMCT**
http://www.omct.org/index_en.cfm?CFID=914971&CFTOKEN=99204887
Report concerning the Application of the Convention on the Rights of the Child by the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia: Committee on the rights of the child, 29 Session – Geneva 8-26 January 2001 (Accessed December 2005)
- [39] **Behind The Mask** <http://www.mask.org.za/>
- a Ethiopia: About Ethiopia
 - b Ethiopia: Beware the gays, report dated 27 May 2003
- [40] **ActionAid** <http://www.actionaidusa.org>
- a ActionAid Defends Anti-Poverty Activists after Bail is Refused, report dated 4 January 2006
- [41] **International Rescue Committee** <http://www.theirc.org/>

- a The IRC in Ethiopia (Accessed 31 January 2006)
- [42] **The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)**
<http://www.unhcr.org/cgi-bin/texis/vtx/home>
 a UNHCR Global Appeal 2006 9Accessed 12 January 2006)
- [43] **Famine Early Warning System Network (Fews Net)** <http://www.fews.net/>
 a Ethiopia: Food Security Update 2006, report dated 23 February 2006
- [44] **ReliefWeb** <http://www.reliefweb.int>
 a UNHCR Map of Ethiopia
 b Ethiopia-Eritrea: Statement by the witnesses to the Algiers Agreement, report dated 23 February 2006
- [45] **United Ethiopian Democratic Forces** <http://www.hebret.com/>
 a Press Release dated 24 October 2005
- [46] **The International Federation for Human Rights (FIDH)**
<http://translate.google.com/translate?hl=en&sl=fr&u=http://www.fidh.org/&prev=/search%3Fq%3DInternational%2BFederation%2Bfor%2BHuman%2BRights%26hl%3Den%26lr%3D%26sa%3DG>
 a Concerns about political trials of opposition activists, Human Rights defenders and journalists, report dated 31 January 2006
- [47] **The Permanent Court of Arbitration** www.pca-cpa.org
 a Agreement Between the Government of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia and The Government of the State of Eritrea
- [48] **United States Committee for Refugees and immigrants (USCRI)**
<http://www.refugees.org/>
 a Country Report – Ethiopia 2005 (for 2004), (Accessed 21 February 2006)
- [49] **The Guardian** <http://www.guardian.co.uk/>
 a *Ethiopia to shift a million people from drought-hit areas*, report dated 3 March 2004
- [50] **CNN.com** <http://www.cnn.com/>
 a *Ex-Ethiopian official gets death sentence for 'Red Terror' killings*, report dated 9 December 2005
- [51] **Ethiopian Review** <http://ethiopianreview.homestead.com/>
 a Hailu Shawel profile, updated 20 June 2005 (Accessed 12 December 2005)
- [52] **Yahoo.com** <http://www.yahoo.com/>
 a Yahoo finance: Ethiopian exchange rate dated 27 February 2006

[Return to contents](#)